■ INFOTECH / B4
Smart to change revenue sharing scheme with 3G

■ NEWS / A6
Chronology of events leading to 1017

Palace announces no classes in all levels in Metro today

■ SPORTS / A25
Pagunsan thwarts Miñoza in sudden death, pockets P1.2M

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Taekwondo gives howling Sokor grannies a big kick

TABI DIYAN APO SISIPA AKO!

SEOUL—AT 74, THERE are several things that warm the heart of Ji Bok-hyun, such as seeing her grandchildren smile and pounding her fist through wooden tiles.

Ji is one of a group of 23 South Korean grand-

TAEKWONDO/ A19

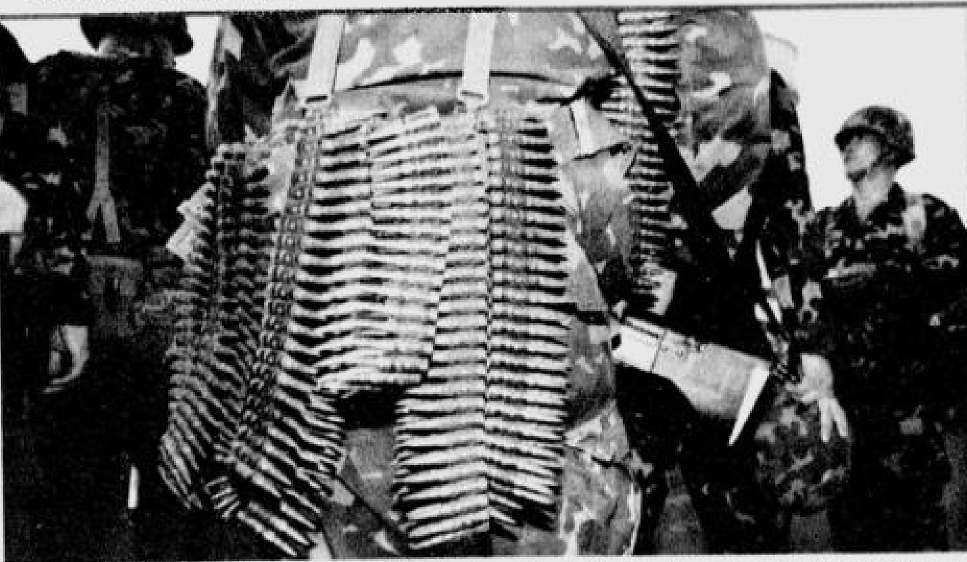
Cory barred entry to Marine camp

By Tony Bergonia

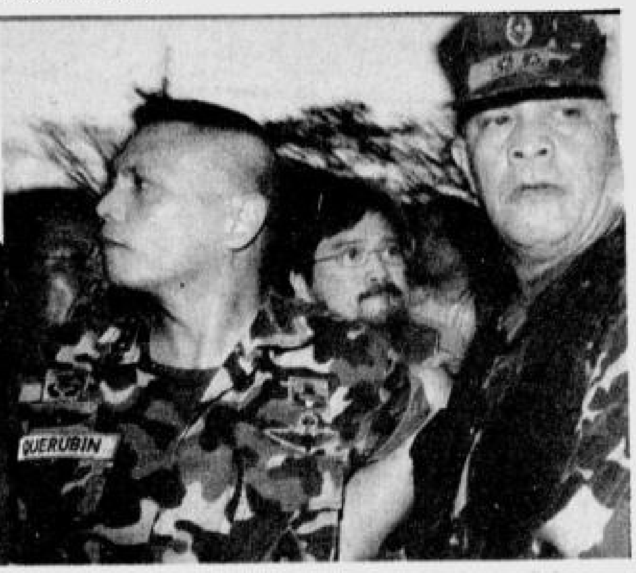
FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO WAS stopped on her way to Fort Bonifacio last night in what she said was a mission to offer prayers for a group of Marines protesting the relief of their commander.

"We need prayers to resolve this peacefully," said Aquino, who had called for the resignation of

CORY/ A19



HEAVILY ARMED Marine officers secure their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio after Col. Ariel Querubin protests the "unexplained" relief of the Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda. RYAN LIM



MAN OF THE HOUR Querubin (left) with Marine Lt. Col. Aquiles Segunlian surrounded by civilian supporters. RYAN LIM

Marine standoff at Bonifacio over

Declaration of freedom

PROCLAMATION 1017 ASserts, without proof, that some members of the national media have "recklessly magnified" the "claims" of alleged conspirators. But an examination of the context in which that assertion is made shows us that what the Arroyo administration really wants is to prevent opposing views from being published or criticism from being aired. (The use of the word "claims" is telling. Given that the actual plot to seize power has been reportedly aborted, the word can only refer to unflattering news and anti-Arroyo views, already published or aired.)

EDITORIAL

That makes Proclamation 1017 a declaration of war on the Bill of Rights. In the guise of saving the Republic from an unholy alliance of "authoritarians" on the left and "adventurists" on the right allegedly conspiring with opportunists from the opposition, the President has launched an assault on our very civil liberties.

EDITORIAL/ A14

1017: Press main target

By Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S proclamation of a state of national emergency on Friday has pushed the Philippines into the twilight zone of a failed democracy.

ANALYSIS

The failure of democracy was starkly highlighted by the swift crackdown on targeted political "enemies of the state" following the announcement of Proclamation No. 1017 on Friday morning.

Before ink of the President's signature on the proclamation had dried, police arrested two on the government's list of at least 10 people alleged to be part of the "tactical alliance" of mainstream opposition politicians, "military adventurers" and communist rebels "engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the duly

1017/ A20

Restive troops return to barracks

By Alcuin Papa, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Tarra V. Quismundo and TJ Burgonio

DISGRUNTLED MARINES YESTERDAY PROTESTED THE RELIEF OF their commander but went back to barracks after a tense six-hour standoff, ending a potentially damaging challenge to President Macapagal-Arroyo when their calls for people power went largely ignored.

Former President Corazon Aquino came, but was stopped about a kilometer away by a police barricade at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. *(See related story at top of this page.)*

Col. Ariel Querubin, the leader of the protest, said he was acting to protest the relief of Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

The new Marine commandant, Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, announced the end of the standoff, saying "we will follow the chain of command; we will follow the Constitution and the duly constituted authority."

Querubin stood beside his new commandant when the announcement was made.

Later, Querubin said he recognized Allaga as his new commandant.

"We're leaving," he said. "To all those who came here, I thank you very much."

The restive Marines returned to barracks shortly after Allaga's announcement, which came after a private meeting with Querubin.

Allaga stepped out of the building and told reporters: "I am now acting commandant of the Marines. The Philippine Marine Corps is solid ... We will not allow ourselves to be used by politicians.

"The orders for the Marines here are to go home tonight," he said.

Allaga said he had talked to the various unit commanders of the Marines.

Asked where General Miranda was, Allaga said Miranda was inside the building and refused to come out.

On any action to be taken against Querubin, Allaga said: "That's all up to me and you don't have to know about that."

MARINE/ A22

MAJ. GEN. MIRANDA: Like a father

Palace lets AFP resolve crisis at Fort Boni

By Christine Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO stayed away from the standoff at the Marine headquarters and left it to the defense department and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resolve, Malacañang said last night.

Minutes after newly installed Marine commandant Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga announced that the standoff was over, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz expressed relief that the Marines managed to resolve the crisis within the institution.

Allaga announced the resolution of the crisis after talking with the rebellious Ariel Querubin behind closed doors with the bemedalled Marine colonel by his side.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor had earlier called for a halt to TV coverage of the Marine base at Fort Bonifacio and appealed to politicians and other civilians gathering there not to politicize the situation.

"Let's not aggravate the situation," Defensor said. He said the Department of National Defense and AFP should be allowed to handle the affair.

"If you recall, this is one of the things we said. That there are elements of the

PALACE/ A22

Noli joins protest against crackdown on media

By Alcuin Papa and Luige A. del Puerto

IN THE FIRST SIGN HE IS DISTANCING himself from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said that freedom of speech and of the press should be safeguarded and respected.

De Castro issued the statement amid indignation by local and foreign news organizations over the Philippine National Police takeover of the Daily Tribune and a PNP warning that other media groups face the same fate if they violate government media standards.

In a meeting at the NewsDesk Café in Quezon City, the media people stressed that they would not tone down their stories in spite of the declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

Carlos Conde of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) said Friday's issuance of Proclamation No. 1017 and the warning by PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao had a "chilling effect."

"While we respect the right and power of the President to protect the people and the state from any destabilizing force, the best interest of the greater number of Filipinos must be borne in mind," said De Castro, a veteran radio and television journalist.

"The President should define and prescribe reasonable terms to guide government agencies acting pursuant to her declaration," De Castro said.

"As Vice President and as part of media, I reiterate my stand that the government respect human rights and protect civil liberties, especially freedom of the press. The role of media is that of serving

NOLI/ A19

POSTSCRIPT

THE PEOPLE

Muslims were there, too

By Marilen Sidri

THE MUSLIM PARTICIPATION AT EDSA I IS A little known fact that has been drowned out by the well-publicized propaganda suggesting it was a shining moment for the Roman Catholic Church only. The fact is, it took Filipinos of all eth-

MUSLIMS/ A21

PEOPLE'S Palace: Every man has a Kodak moment.

THE MEDIA

The tears fell 20 years later

By Fernando del Mundo

IT IS AMAZING. THE TEARS I held within me during those four days in February finally fell 20 years later as I edited copy from all those wonderful people who shared their stories with us.

At the end of each day the past several weeks, I had a terrible headache.

To those who sent an e-mail, a fax, a letter—thank you very much.

The stories are a genuine revelation.

It did not occur to me in 1986 that I could be killed at Camp Aguinaldo—or Camp Crame later—while reporting on the dra-

THE TEARS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/27/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Another landslide hits S Leyte

ST. BERNARD—A LANDSLIDE HAS HIT ANOTHER town in Southern Leyte where the collapse of a mountainside wiped out an entire village, prompting authorities to order a rapid survey of endangered communities, an official said Sunday.

No one was hurt in the latest landslide blamed on weeks of downpours, but officials fear more could occur with intermittent heavy rains continuing over the province.

Some 550 people from the village of Pamigsian, in Bontoc town, had moved to safer ground when a small landslide hit nearby Friday. Another 30 people from another village in Bontoc also have evacuated, said Southern Leyte Vice Gov. Mike Maamo.

Maamo said three groups of geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau were to conduct a "rapid assessment" of potential landslide areas.

"We don't want to declare that such and such a village is livable or habitable without the clearance or certification from the MGB," Maamo said. "We are hoping in a week's time we will have data on whether the people can still live there."

The Red Cross reported that evacuees from four towns in Southern Leyte reached about 6,700 Sunday, including those who had been moved out before Guinsaugon was engulfed.

The village of Guinsaugon was buried by a landslide on Feb. 17. Officials say 139 bodies have been recovered and 973 people are missing and feared dead.

Before Guinsaugon was hit, the towns of Sogod, Lilo-an and San Francisco had suffered recent landslides. At least eight people were killed in Sogod just a week before.

The search for survivors has ended in Guinsaugon.

Provincial Gov. Rosette Lerias said retrieval groups will continue looking for bodies until Thursday. She will then declare the 300-hectare wasteland off-limits due to safety and sanitation concerns.

Later, the area will be designated a "sacred sanctuary" where no construction will be allowed, she said. A helicopter will fly a priest over the area to sprinkle holy water to bless it.

US Marines, who have been helping in the search efforts, withdrew most of their forces on the ground Sunday, which peaked at about 600. Marine Capt. Burrel Parmer said a small contingent will remain for humanitarian work.

"We will be having a team there trying to provide temporary facilities and other types of assistance to the victims and to the evacuees," he said. "The priority is on rebuilding the lives of those affected by the mudslide."

Marine Col. Walter Lee Miller, the most senior US commander here, said troops and equipment will be kept on US ships "within range ... if I need them back in."

Other international groups also have left, including search teams from Taiwan, Malaysia, Turkey and Spain. A contingent from Indonesia, which will provide mainly medical services to evacuees, will remain for a month.

St. Bernard Vice Mayor Felix Lim said the local government has found a site for Guinsaugon survivors but is seeking donations because it can't afford to pay for relocating about 280 families or 636 people. *AP*

THREE GIRL-EVACUEES from the Guinsaugon landslide play at an evacuation center in St. Bernard as US Marines load their helicopter in the background preparatory to withdrawing on Sunday after local officials announced the end of the search for survivors. AP PHOTO

Guinsaugon folk are victims twice over

By Christian V. Esguerra

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Stuck in the thick mud and unable to move, a man watched helplessly as a neighbor took his wallet containing P300 and his wristwatch.

Elsewhere in mud-swamped 50-hectare Barangay Guinsaugon, a group of men were dismantling a motorcycle left behind by a resident. They couldn't bodily carry the muddied bike so they opted to cart it away part by part.

Another resident lost a stereo component, still another his Nokia 6610 mobile phone—all to "human vultures" preying on some victims of the massive landslide that engulfed this small farming village more than a week ago.

These and similar stories of looting are going around amid the misery of the disaster, and for people like 52-year-old Remy Bucio, who survived but lost seven siblings, the looting seems to be just as horrendous as the incomprehensible mudslide.

"It's too much," she told the INQUIRER. "Our relatives were there desperately trying to survive, unsure if they would make it. But there were people who were busy doing something else."

Bucio was recounting the stories to other relatives and neighbors in a temporary house located near the town hall. They had left the Cristo Rey School which had been converted into a shelter for those who had lost their homes, saying it had no more room for more people.

Eglecerio Coquilla, 63, said he had pretty much accepted his family's fate. His wife Amelinda, 58, and two of their children had yet to be found. "It's been a week since they were buried in the landslide," he said.

He said what he couldn't accept was the villainy of some residents of neighboring barangays taking advantage of the situation.

Susan Ria, 41, who lost a sister and a 2-year-old nephew, said a pig owned by a neighbor managed to escape the mud and boulders which swept down from Kan-abag Mountain, but not the knife of one group of enterprising men.

Another complained that he lost a carabao. He soon found out that it had been butchered in a surrounding barangay.

"They should not have done that. It didn't belong to them," said Bucio.

Residents of nearby villages—Barangays Tambis, Catmon, Ayahag, Sugangon and Magatas—denied that the incidents happened, or that they had heard about it.

Mountain rescue teams formed against bird flu

BAGUIO CITY—ALTHOUGH THE likelihood that migratory birds infected with the avian influenza would reach the Cordillera is remote, the Office of Civil Defense is taking no chances and is forming an emergency rescue team to protect mountain villages who practice "ikik."

"Ikik" is a bird-catching tradition in Mt. Province and Benguet which is practiced at night.

Senior Supt. Joseph Adnol, chief of the Cordillera police community relations office, said the proposed rescue team would prevent the police from being infected in the event of a bird flu outbreak.

Adnol said the primary role of policemen based in these villages would be to quarantine the communities, and prevent villagers from panicking while awaiting a rescue team to secure the vicinity.

He said the police must learn to deal with the dangers posed by viruses and bacteria. The OCD also wants the Cordillera police to understand the protocol for destroying bird flu-infected chicken, ducks and birds.

"We are training people based on the experience we had in controlling panic in Baguio due to the outbreak of [the bacterial disease] meningococcemia," said Vicente Tomazar, OCD Cordillera director.

"We must teach the police that the manner of releasing information is important. Meningococcemia in Baguio was an example of how information can be misinterpreted and can generate paranoia," Tomazar said.

Several towns in the Cordillera have issued ordinances banning the practice of "ikik" in the light of the bird flu outbreak that has killed several people in Asia.

Tomazar said the OCD's assessment was that the region will need P2 billion to improve the facilities of four health centers in case of an outbreak.

He said there were enough natural barriers in the Cordillera against bird flu but local governments must be prepared to offer complete medical services to the infected.

He said the region's mountainous terrain is outside the migration paths used by birds fleeing winter in other countries each year. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bomb suspect's home raided

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ARMY troopers reportedly raided the house of a suspected bomber in Jolo, Sulu, on Friday night, a police source said.

A police officer who asked not to be identified said the raiders blasted open the door of the home of Mindam Jajala in Panglima Hawani Village in Jolo.

The raid was led by soldiers belonging to the Jolo Internal Defense Force (JIDF) under 104th Army Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito.

In a telephone interview, Jajala and his 20-year-old daughter Nelda confirmed the raid to the INQUIRER.

Mindam said the soldiers rammed their vehicle through their gate and "put bombs on our door that exploded and destroyed our door."

Nelda said she and her younger sisters Jaidam and Julaidam were traumatized by the incident after the 10 armed raiders poked their long firearms at them.

She said the raiders were looking for her brother Junaid, 28, an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Luuk town, who was then asleep at a mosque.

Nelda said one of the raiders, who was wearing a bonnet, spoke English.

"*Ang huli kong napansin noong banggitin yung mga salitang* (What I last heard were the words) 'do you want us to diminish the three?'" she said.

The raiders hurriedly left upon hearing the siren of an approaching police car, she said.

Senior Supt. Ahirum Ajirim, police chief for Sulu, said they were investigating the incident.

Joint Task Force Comet chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo said they had not received a report regarding an explosion on Friday night.

"I will have to meet with the JIDF first since they are responsible for the curfew and securing Jolo town at nighttime." *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Prelates warn of martial law, urge end to emergency

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila

ILOILO CITY—THE PRESIDENT of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said the proclamation of a state of national emergency by President Macapagal-Arroyo could result in martial law and lead to abuse.

Reacting to the arrest of opposition and militant leaders and the raid on a newspaper critical of the administration, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said Proclamation 1017 "should be short-lived in order that it may not become a source of violations of human rights.

"The proclamation of a state of emergency may be subject to abuse in the hands of lawgivers. And that is what we should be afraid of in the future," Lagdameo told reporters here before celebrating Mass at the Iloilo provincial capitol for the Gawad Kalinga housing project of the archdiocese of Jaro.

Another senior Roman Catholic prelate yesterday also warned of the downfall of the President in the wake of her controversial declaration of a state of emergency.

"If (Ms Arroyo) and her gang do not show results in the direction of purging all perpetrators of corruption and improving the lot of the poor, this regime will crumble faster and more miserably than the past dictatorship," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles told the INQUIRER in a text message.

On Saturday, authorities arrested Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montaño. The police also raided the offices of the opposition paper Daily Tribune before dawn Saturday.

Lagdameo said the people should "earnestly pray" that the present situation would not result in martial law.

When asked how short the implementation of the state of emergency should be, Lagdameo said: "As short as possible so that the people will not be living in fear."

The voluntary resignation of the President was one of three options the bishops proposed last year to put closure to the political crisis hounding the Arroyo presidency.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan yesterday said he was worried where the current political upheaval, triggered by Ms Arroyo's alleged manipulation of the 2004 elections, could be heading.

"You see, the place where Filipinos can move around is getting narrower," he said in Filipino in an interview over the Church-run Radio Veritas. "The people are not enjoying freedom. It is instead getting even more curtailed."

After 1017, Senate cancels hearing on fertilizer fund

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE PANEL LOOKING INTO THE alleged misspending of the P728-million fertilizer fund canceled its last hearing set for today for fear some of the resource persons from farmers' groups would be arrested following the declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of national emergency.

The Senate committee on agriculture and food, chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., decided to ask the resource persons to instead submit affidavits in order that the panel could draft its final report.

Invited to today's hearings were Danilo Ramos of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and four other farmers from other groups, three local officials, and regional directors of the Commission on Audit, among others.

"We've found ourselves in a tight fix. It looks like some of the witnesses are going to be arrested," a staffer of the committee said. He was referring to Ramos and four other farmers, who are supposedly on the list of persons to be arrested or questioned by the authorities.

"We don't want that to happen to these people," he said, adding that the committee had received information that the farmers would be picked up by either police or military authorities if they showed up at the Senate.

The cancellation came a day after the police arrested Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran based on a warrant issued on Oct. 7, 1985, in connection with a charge of inciting to sedition.

Malacañang defended the arrest of Beltran as part of ongoing efforts to go after eight to 10 people supposedly part of an alliance of politicians, military adventurists and communist rebels plotting to topple the administration.

The President on Friday issued Proclamation No. 1017 and placed the country under a state of national emergency after the military uncovered the plot.

Earlier in the day, Magsaysay said the committee was pushing ahead with the inquiry on the alleged misuse of the fertilizer fund in the run-up to the May 2004 presidential elections despite the volatile situation.

But even without the testimonies of Ramos and the other resource persons, the committee was close to completing its report, including its recommendations, and hoped to present it to Senate President Franklin Drilon this week.

"So far we have established that there was a well-laid plan to extract sums from the fertilizer fund for other pecuniary purposes," Magsaysay said.

The fund, placed under the supervision of then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante, was believed to have been distributed as largesse to allies of Ms Arroyo to ensure her victory in the 2004 presidential elections.

After surgery, Erap urges GMA to step down

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BARELY OUT OF SURGERY ON HIS LEFT eye, former President Joseph Estrada yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw her declaration of a state of national emergency and step down.

"I call on the Arroyo regime to withdraw the declaration of the state of national emergency and listen to the majority of our people and step down," said Estrada in a statement in Filipino which his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, read before reporters yesterday afternoon.

The ousted President, who is on trial on plunder and perjury charges, stood quietly behind his son as the latter read the one-page statement in the lobby of the San Juan Medical Center, where Estrada underwent eye surgery on Saturday night.

Baseless arrests

"I am now held by the Arroyo regime and they can do anything they want to me. But they cannot imprison my stand and my beliefs," Estrada said.

He also called on the administration to "stop the baseless arrest of its enemies, stop the dispersal of protests and stop threatening the media and other sectors who are fighting against the looming dictatorship."

He asked the national police and the military "not to be used against the welfare of the people and to fight for the motto of the Philippine Military Academy, which is courage, integrity and loyalty to the country."

Members of the Police Security and Protection Office detailed at the hospital were around when Jinggoy read the statement.

Surgeons removed two cysts from Estrada's left eye in an operation that began at 7:25 p.m. on Saturday. His personal physician, Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, told the INQUIRER the operation was over in 30 minutes.

8-year-old cysts

Hocson said Estrada may have had the cysts for as long as eight years. Surgeons found the cysts when Estrada underwent treatment at the hospital two weeks ago for an eye infection and to remove excess skin from his eyelids. They decided not to remove the cysts then to prevent infection to his eyes.

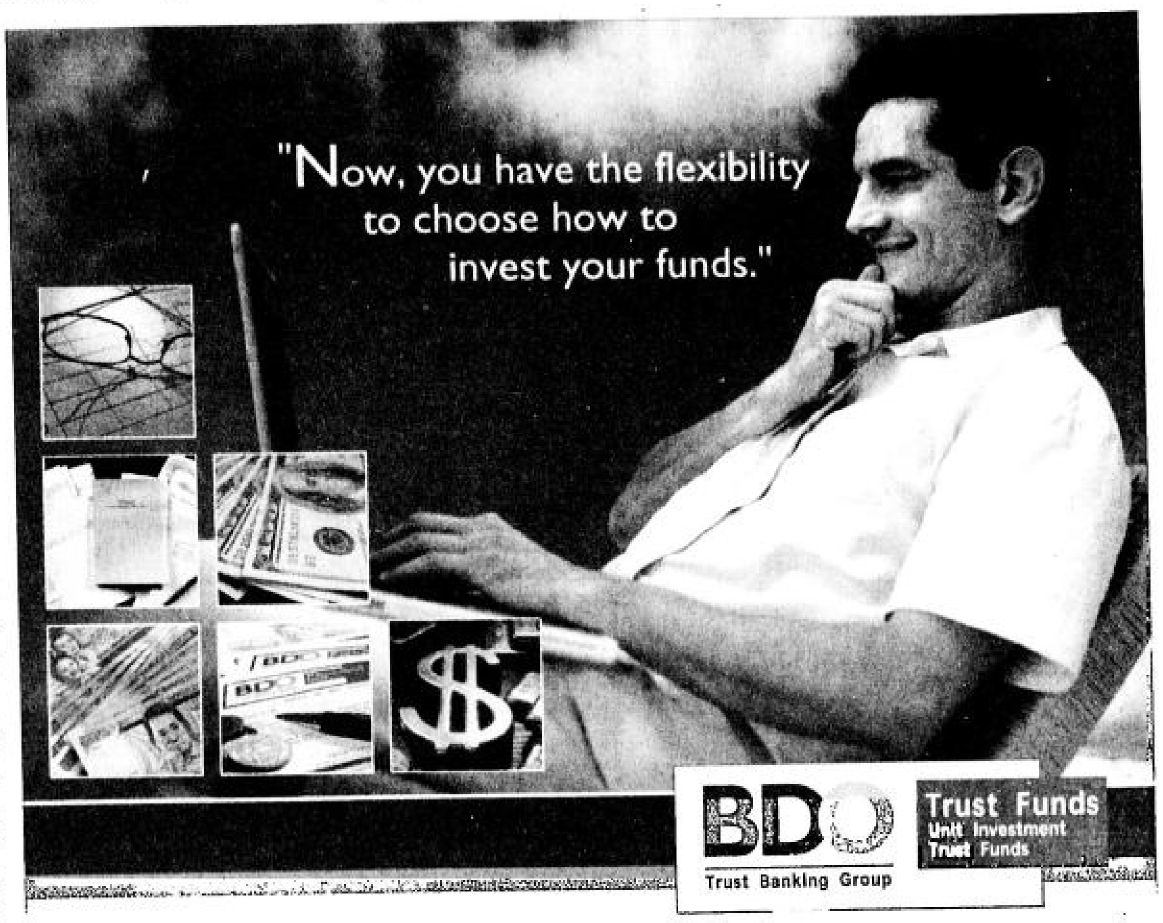
But three days ago, Estrada complained of pain in his eyes. The Sandiganbayan granted him another medical furlough.

The operation was originally scheduled for Friday night but the operating physician, Dr. Amadeo Veloso, decided to treat the infection first before operating on Estrada on Saturday night.

Hocson said Estrada could leave the hospital on Tuesday.

Estrada also urged former President Fidel V. Ramos to make up his mind about withdrawing support from President Arroyo.

"Why is he taking so long to make up his mind?" Estrada said. *With Nelson F. Flores*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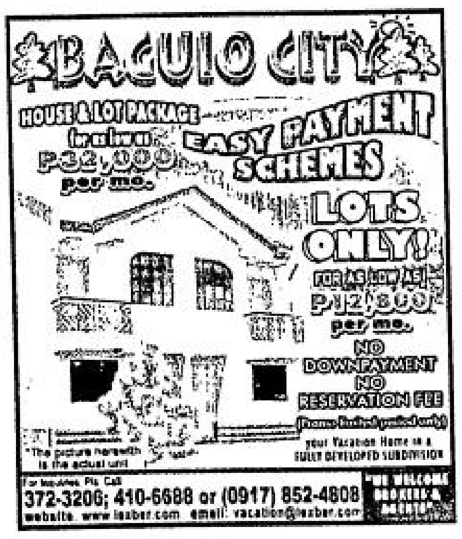
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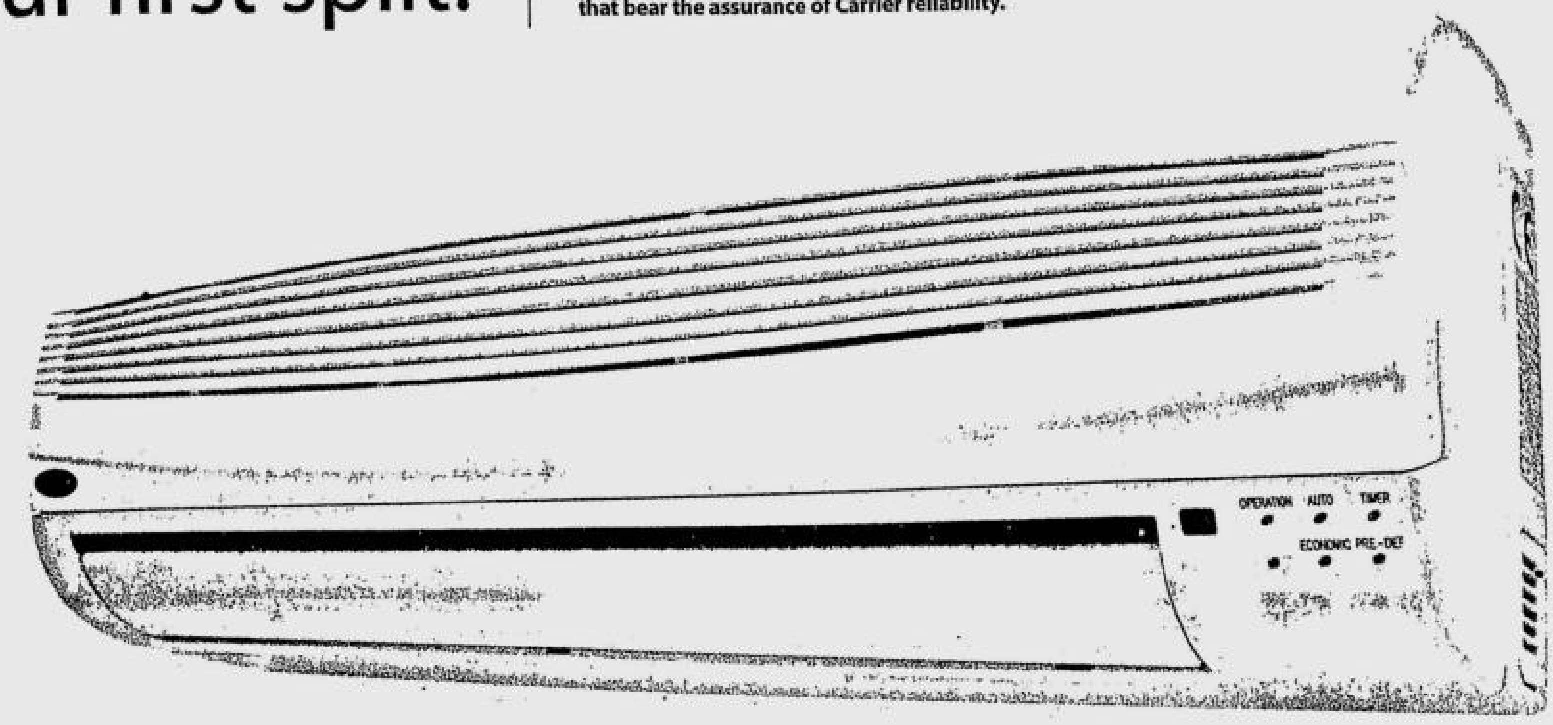

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Baguio fest offers break from anxiety

BAGUIO CITY—THE BAGUIO FLOWER FESTIVAL known as Panagbenga over the weekend provided local residents and tourists a few hours respite from the anxieties created by President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

Except for the presence of Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, a staunch ally of Ms Arroyo, and a banner describing the flower festival as "petals for love, peace and unity," visitors like 70-year-old Luther Arboleda said the two-day festival was "just the right antidote to what's happening in Manila."

The first parade of the festival was held on Saturday and the second yesterday. They were organized by Mayor Braulio Yaranon and lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., Panagbenga founder, respectively.

"I like this atmosphere in Baguio. Everyone is happy. They don't mind what's happening [in Manila]. That is really why we come up here for the festivals. It makes us forget [our political troubles]," said Arboleda, a retired police senior superintendent (colonel) who now evangelizes over Camp Aguinaldo's Armed Forces Radio dwDD.

The parades coincided with the 20th year anniversary celebration of the 1986 Edsa revolt, but the Saturday parade started out subdued.

"Our parade is definitely propagating peace. We only want peace," said an elementary school teacher here who led her students in the street dancing.

Like previous festivals, this latest staging of Panagbenga provided an array of colors and choreography.

A police helicopter dropped rose petals as parade participants marched toward Session Road, the city's main street.

Elementary and high school students from various schools pranced in colorful body suits, played musical instruments wearing flower masks, and wore crowns and sun hats shaped like flower petals.

The parades gave the city's tourism industry a boost. Hotels estimated a 50 percent increase in bookings.

Actress Judy Ann Santos was on a float sponsored by a pawnshop.

The festival also raised funds for the survivors of the Southern Leyte landslide.

Inmates at the Baguio City jail made 300 lamps they called "Hope Floats," which Jollibee Baguio manager Luz Cusi sold to tourists.
Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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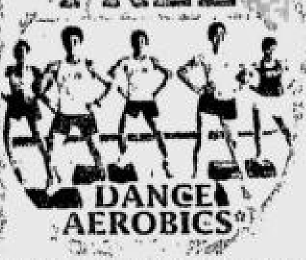

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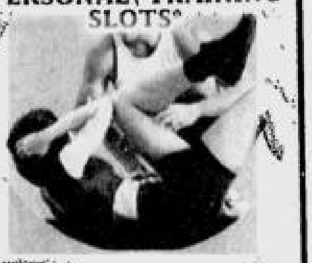

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Chronology of events leading to 1017

(The following chronology of events that led to the proclamation by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of national emergency on Friday was provided to the INQUIRER *by Malacañang.—Ed.)*

PROCLAMATION No. 1017 WAS issued to thwart a conspiracy to overthrow the government among the communist rebel movement, certain military officers and some members of the opposition. The following is a chronology of events leading to the proclamation of a state of national emergency:

BEFORE THE WEEK OF 19-25 FEBRUARY 2006

Anti-Arroyo Groups Planned Massive Protests

"The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) directed front organizations to stage mass protests on 24 February, with 5,000 participants from Metro Manila and 25,000 from nearby provinces.

"CPP-linked groups mount lightning rallies from 17 to 22 February. In recent weeks, CPP's New People's Army intensify attacks on government troops.

"Bayan Muna leader Cong. Satur Ocampo said the aims of the protests is to coalesce with other anti-Arroyo groups, including the pro-Estrada and Hyatt 10 camps; and establish a renewed relationship with former president Cory Aquino.

"On 20 February in Alex Grill, Matalino St., Quezon City, the Black and White Movement, Akbayan, and other anti-Arroyo groups announced plans to march 20,000 protesters on 22 February around Metro Manila, converge at the People Power Monument on 23 February, and possibly move to Mendiola on 24 February.

"Pro-FPJ groups under Susan Roces declared that they would join anti-Arroyo protests on 24 February, at the People Power Monument and Mendiola.

"Pro-Estrada/FPJ supporters hold daily vigils and masses at the People Power Monument since 12 February.

Emerging Alliance Between Rebel Soldiers and Communist Insurgents

"On 17 January, four officers among the Magdalo group on trial for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, escaped military custody.

"New People's Army spokesperson Ka Roger Rosal offered sanctuary to the four escaped Magdalo rebel soldiers.

"A captured document titled "Oplan Hackle" detailed plans for bombings and attacks starting on the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming on 18 February.

"The Hackle document also included a plan to spring more Magdalo soldiers.

"On 21 February, one of the escaped soldiers, Lt. Lawrence San Juan, was arrested while plotting with two NPA figures in a communist safehouse in Batangas province.

"Documents of the Magdalo-NPA meeting were captured and would be declassified.

23 FEBRUARY / THURSDAY

Plot to oust President Arroyo

"In an evening meeting at the home of former congressman Peping Cojuangco, Cory Aquino's brother, businessmen and mid-level officials plotted moves to bring down the Arroyo administration.

"As reported by Time Magazine, longtime Arroyo critic Pastor "Boy" Saycon called someone whom he identified as a US official about his group's plans if President Arroyo is ousted.

"Saycon also phoned a man code-named Delta, whom Saycon identified as B/Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the Army's elite Scout Rangers. Lim said it was "all systems go" for the planned movement against President Arroyo.

"According to Saycon, Time reported, a military component was to march on Friday morning to the Edsa Shrine, near the People Power Monument where protests were to converge.

"At the Shrine, Time said, the troops would be met by Catholic bishops and a Marine general. The general would read a statement withdrawing support from the Arroyo administration.

Threat to the Military Chain of Command

"Late that afternoon, meanwhile, B/Gen. Lim and Marine brigade commander Col. Ariel Querubin told AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga that restive young officers and soldiers planned to join rallies on 24 February, so as to provide critical mass and the armed component to the protests.

"Lim and Querubin said they might not be able to dissuade these troops from their plan, and there were indications that the two may also join them.

"After Lim and Querubin left, Gen. Senga discussed the problem with the Army, Navy and Air Force commanding generals.

"Lim and Querubin were called to join the top-brass meeting and advised to stop troops from joining the protests, but they did not seem willing to do so.

"After Lim and Querubin left, Gen. Senga and the major service commanders took steps to secure the AFP chain of command and its loyalty to the duly constituted government.

"They called all major military. commanders in the country.

"Navy chief Adm. Mateo Mayuga spoke with the Marines.

"At Gen. Senga's advice, Lim submitted to the AFP Chief of Staff's custody.

Suspicious actions at PNP Special Forces

"On 23 February, residents near Camp Sto. Domingo, base of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) were told to take precautions because some SAF elements were planning to defect.

"PNP Chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao asked SAF commander Gen. Franco about SAF situation and told him to disavow any SAF defection.

"Franco issued statement. He was later relieved without incident, along with two other SAF officials.

24 FEBRUARY / FRIDAY

"By early morning on Friday, 24 February, all military commanders and forces were accounted for and solidly behind the chain of command.

"While the situation was under control, in Gen. Senga's assessment, it was still fluid and could change.

"The AFP leadership meets daily to assess the situation and take necessary action.

"The military has also embarked on a campaign to enhance the troops' allegiance to constitutional government, and their understanding of the national situation.

Advised of the foregoing military and civilian developments, the President and the Cabinet decided on the morning of Friday, 24 February, to issue Proclamation 1017.

GMA makes 2nd trip out of Malacañang

WITH HER SON AND DAUGTHER-in-law in tow, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday went to hear Sunday Mass at the Ermita Church in Manila, her second public appearance after the government thwarted a purported coup attempt three days ago.

The President sat in the front pew with her son Dato and his wife Maria Victoria, as several members of the Presidential Security Group, who were scattered all over the church, looked on.

Her trip to the church came a day after she went to a mall at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City to attend a summit for entrepreneurs.

On Friday, the President declared a state of national emergency to thwart a supposed coup against the administration.

Ms Arroyo stayed for the entire Mass and drew the attention of the other church-goers.

After receiving Holy Communion, the President—apparently delighted with a little girl—picked her up and posed for a picture as requested by the child's equally delighted mother.

After the Mass, Ms Arroyo and her party immediately left the Church and returned to Malacañang. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Pinoys in HK protest

HONG KONG—ABOUT 60 FILIPINO migrant workers protested Sunday outside the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong, denouncing President Macapagal-Arroyo for declaring a state of national emergency and demanding that she step down.

"Oust, oust GMA," the protesters yelled outside the consulate. "Oust the US-Arroyo regime," read a placard.

Critics have questioned whether Ms Arroyo's emergency declaration Friday was justified since no actual coup attempt occurred.

Eman Villanueva, one of Sunday's protest organizers, blasted the decree, calling it "martial law in disguise."

"The Filipino people have had enough of the fascist rule of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's government," Villanueva said. "We've had enough of the poverty, the injustice, the human rights violations under her presidency."

In a reference to the days of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the protesters chanted "never again, never again to martial law" outside the consulate and handed over a petition to a consular official.

Philippine Consul General in Hong Kong Alejandrino Vicente was not immediately available for comment. *AP*

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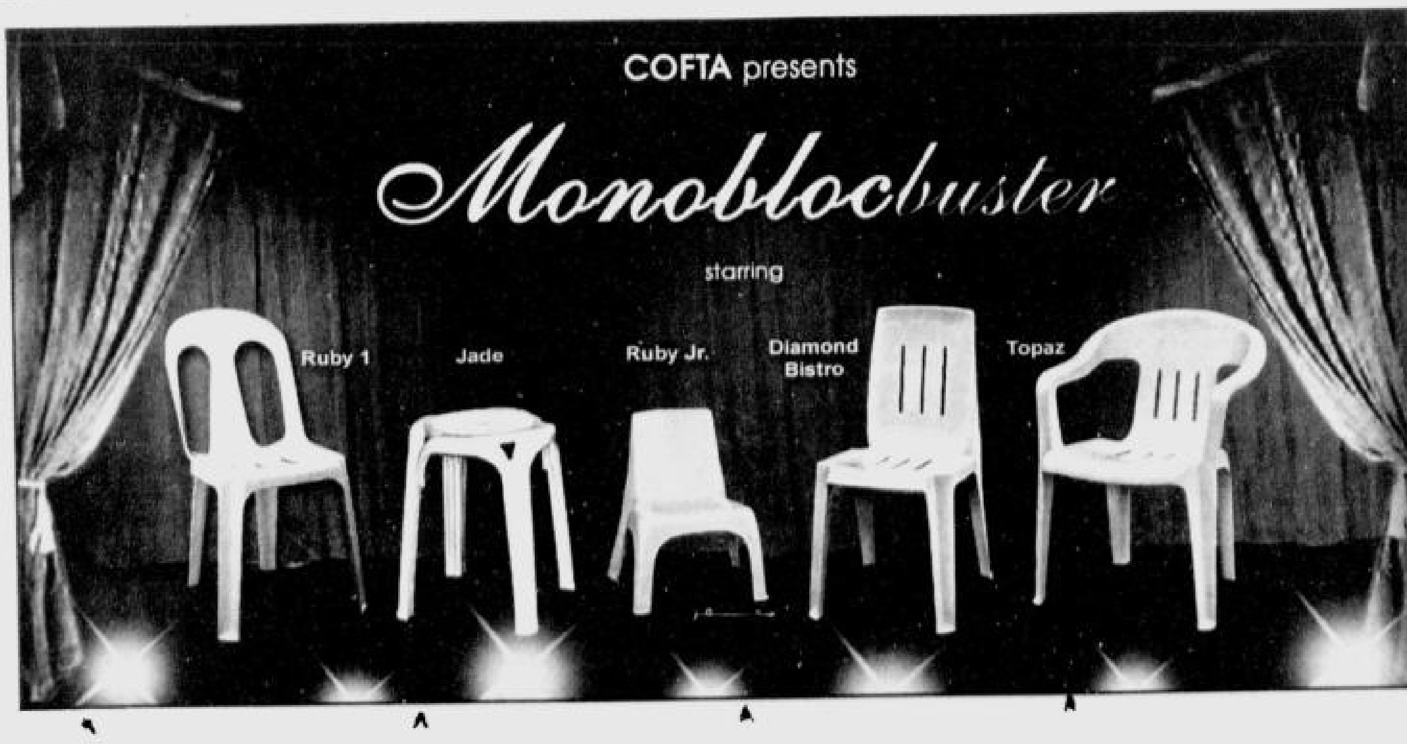

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Japanese call for end to trafficking

TOKYO—ACTIVISTS FIGHTING TO STOP human trafficking have called for better cooperation between victims' home countries and Japan, a hotbed for the crime.

"Cooperation among states is essential," Keiko Otsu, a leading Japanese campaigner to help women who escaped forced prostitution, told a symposium in Tokyo yesterday.

"Receiving countries and the countries of origin need to help each other to rescue victims of human trafficking," she said.

Japan, the world's second largest economy, has long been one of the largest markets for trafficked people.

Japanese police protected 117 women from nine countries who had been forced into sexual work last year, 40 percent of whom were from Indonesia, while many others were from the Philippines and Thailand, panelist Tsuyoshi Iguchi from the National Police Agency said.

Tokyo has come under intense criticism for its lack of laws to crack down on sexual slavery and labor abuses even after it signed the UN Convention Against Human Trafficking in 2002.

In a humiliating blow from its closest ally, Japan was castigated in a 2002 report by the United States State Department for its failure to prevent slavery, with countries including Colombia and South Korea, evaluated as better in fighting the crime.

The Japanese government finally moved last year to create a law that made the trafficking of people a specific offense and provided for support to victims. *AFP*

Warning out on China jobs

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN BEIJING over the weekend issued a warning to Filipino workers, particularly teachers, against falling prey to illegal recruiters offering lucrative employment in China.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Charge d'Affaires Corazon Belmonte-Jover said most of the cases of breach of contract and illegal recruitment in China involved fly-by-night recruitment agencies and unauthorized schools that hired Filipino teachers through the Internet or over the phone.

The illegal recruiters were both Filipinos and foreigners, Jover said.

Their victims would end up underpaid, jobless or imprisoned for illegally staying in China, she said.

In the report, Jover said that while there was a need for English teachers in China, "not all schools are authorized by the Chinese government to hire foreign teachers."

Before taking up a recruiter's job offer, Jover advised teachers to first check their prospective employer's background and to contact other Filipino teachers already working in China.

According to the embassy, a foreigner has to have a working "Z" visa in order to work legally in China. *Nikko Dizon*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

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Gospel: Mark 10:17-27

Just as Jesus was setting out on his journey again, a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat, honor your father and mother." The man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and he said, "For you, one thing is lacking. Go, sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me." On hearing these words, his face fell and he went away sorrowful for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

They were more astonished than ever and wondered, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and said, "For humans it is impossible, but not for God; all things are possible with God."

Commentary

We must remember that we have been born into God, into mercy and hope and the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. We are to rejoice in that, in the face of hardship and suffering, but hold fast and honor God by loving one another. Jesus is asked what constitutes eternal life, to know it now, and we, like the man who asks, know the answers. We are to obey the commandments of old. And once we have struggled to master them, there is one more thing. Sell all we have, give to the poor and come follow Jesus. There is always one more thing but nothing is impossible with our God. We are to belong to God more and more, and each day, give one more thing to the poor and come follow more closely.

We forget so easily so often who we are.

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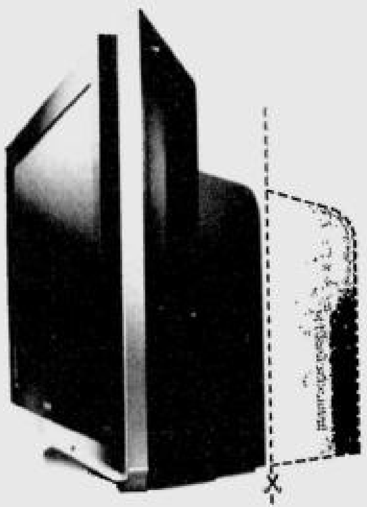

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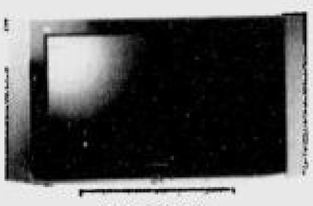

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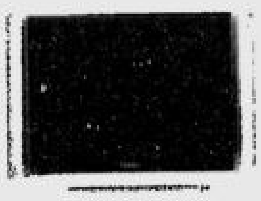

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

60 killed as chaos returns to Iraq

BAGHDAD—BOMBS AND GUNFIRE KILLED ABOUT 60 people as another daytime curfew Saturday failed to halt violence that has claimed nearly 200 lives since the destruction of a Shiite shrine set off a wave of retribution against Sunnis and pushed Iraq toward civil war.

In an unusual round of telephone diplomacy, President Bush spoke with seven leaders of Shiite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish political parties in a bid to defuse the sectarian crisis unleashed by the bombing of the Shiites' Askariya shrine in Samarra.

Bush "encouraged them to continue to work together to thwart the efforts of the perpetrators of the violence to sow discord among Iraq's communities," said Frederick Jones, a spokesperson for the White House's National Security Council.

Reprisal attacks that followed the Wednesday blast in Samarra have derailed talks on a forming new Iraqi government and threaten Washington's goal of building up a self-sufficient Iraq free of US military involvement.

But Bush's personal intervention appeared to ease Sunni fears. Tariq al-Hashimi, among those who spoke with Bush, said afterward that a new government was the best way to ease the sectarian crisis.

A second straight day of curfew in Baghdad and three surrounding provinces kept the city relatively calm, raising hopes the worst of the crisis was past. Authorities lifted the curfew in the areas outside Baghdad but decreed an all-day vehicle ban Sunday for the capital and its suburbs.

"I think the danger of civil war as a result of this attack has diminished, although I do not believe we are completely out of danger yet," US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters Saturday night.

Nevertheless, bloodshed continued.

A car bomb exploded in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing at least six people, hospital officials said. Gunmen broke into a Shiite home northeast of Baghdad and massacred 13 male members, police said.

Bodies of 14 Iraqi police commandos were found near their three burned vehicles near a Sunni mosque in southwestern Baghdad, police Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi said. Two rockets slammed into Baghdad's Shiite slum, Sadr City, killing three people, including a child, and wounding seven, police said.

Two Iraqi security officers guarding the funeral of an Al-Arabiya television correspondent Atwar Bahjat were killed and four other people were wounded when a car bomb exploded as mourners left a cemetery in western Baghdad. Bahjat was slain Wednesday along with two colleagues after covering the Samarra shrine bombing.

Earlier, shooting broke out as the funeral procession was carrying her coffin near the home of Harith al-Dhari, head of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a prominent Sunni clerical group. One policeman was killed and two people were wounded in the shooting, police said.

At least 21 other people died in small-scale shootings and bombings in Baghdad and western areas of the city, according to police and hospital reports.

Gunmen also shot at two Sunni mosques in Baghdad Saturday, police said. And two rockets damaged a Shiite shrine late Friday in Tuz Khormato, 240 km north of Baghdad, police and witnesses said.

The crisis has distracted attention from the approaching deadline set by the kidnappers of American journalist Jill Carroll, abducted Jan. 7 in Baghdad. Carroll, a freelancer for the Christian Science Monitor, was last seen on a videotape broadcast Feb. 10 by a Kuwaiti television station. It said the kidnappers threatened to kill her unless the US met unspecified demands by Sunday.

"There are no new developments on her case so far because we are busy with a lot of things right now," Deputy Interior Minister Hussein Kamal said Saturday. "We know about the deadline and we hope that we can reach her before they manage to kill her."

Faced with one of the gravest threats of the turbulent US presence in Iraq, American officials mounted a furious effort to get the political process back on track while Iraqi authorities defended their handling of the crisis. *AP*

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila** not later than **March 8, 2006 @ 3:00 P.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.00.**

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	66,542 sq.m. agricultural lot	Sitio Masanting, Bo. Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal	11,061,000.00
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	1 unit "Isuzu" Elf Truck		72,000.00
	24 units ventilating fans		58,000.00
	1 unit "Protech" Pressure Washer		1,000.00
2.	7,079 sq.m. residential lot	Bo. Janipaan Este, New Lucena, Iloilo City	3,376,000.00
3.	1,557 sq.m. residential lot	Bo. Lalaan, Silang, Cavite	2,800,000.00

For the complete description of Items Nos. 1-3 including bidding forms, you may look for Ms. Tina Ilasin or Ms. Arlene Velasco at Special Assets Department (SPAD) Land Bank of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.** The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

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COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI–February 27, 2006)

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AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 13, 2000 DEFINING THE GUIDELINES ON TRANSFERABILITY OF TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, THE OMNIBUS INVESTMENT CODE

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated October 13, 2000 executed by and between the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Department of Finance (DOF) in compliance with the provision of Article 21 of Executive Order No. 226 (E.O. 226) regarding the transferability of tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued under the said E.O., the following additional guidelines are hereby adopted:

"1. *Transfers by companies belonging to a distressed industry sector:*

Transferors belonging to an industry sector which BOI has assessed to be in distress shall be allowed to transfer their outstanding TCCs to any BOI-registered transferees without requiring them to comply with the conditions imposed under Section 1c, 1e and 1f of the prevailing MOA, *provided* that this type of transfer shall be allowed for one year only from official notification to the Center by BOI that the industry sector is in distress, without prejudice to renewal thereof upon approval by the Executive Committee."

"2. *Section 9 of the MOA is hereby amended to include the following paragraph:*

"Henceforth, in order to simplify the administrative process in amending the existing MOA, and since BOI and DOF are well represented in the Center's Excom, any amendment to the prevailing MOA including exceptions to the guidelines for meritorious consideration shall now be done through a resolution duly approved by the Center's Executive Committee, which resolution shall be for implementation without the need for another MOA between BOI and DOF, subject to compliance with the provisions of EO 226 and with the required administrative procedures under the Administrative Code."

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(Sgd.) **ELMER C. HERNANDEZ** Undersecretary	(Sgd.) **GAUDENCIO A. MENDOZA, JR.** Undersecretary

Signed in the presence of:

(Sgd.) **EFREN V. LEANO** Executive Director Board of Investments	(Sgd.) **ERNESTO Q. HIANSEN** Executive Director OSS-CENTER

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Doc. No. 334
Page No. 63
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(PDI—Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, 2006)

Qaida threatens more strikes on Saudi oil plants

RIYADH—THE AL-QAIDA NETwork vowed defiantly to assault more Saudi oil facilities, according to an Internet statement posted Saturday after a thwarted attack on the desert kingdom's largest oil installation.

"We reaffirm our determination to defeat the crusader and tyrannic forces, stop the plunder of the Muslims' riches, free Muslim land and cleanse the Arabian Peninsula of infidels," said the statement by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the network's local branch is known.

"We will not stop attacks until (the presence of infidels) has been eliminated," the statement said. Its authenticity could not be confirmed.

The chilling message cast a pall on Riyadh's efforts to reassure markets made jittery by the failed double suicide bomb attack Friday on the world's largest oil-producing center that left two security guards and the two bombers dead.

The al-Qaida statement also identified the two "martyrdom-seekers" who died in what the group claimed was a successful attack on the Abqaiq facility in the oil-rich Eastern Province.

The Internet posting named the pair as Abdullah Abdul Aziz Ibrahim al-Tuwaijri and Mohammed Saleh Mohammed al-Ghaith, both of whom figured on a 36-strong list of wanted militants issued by Saudi authorities last June.

"We warn against the spurious allegations of Saudi media that the operation was thwarted and the two cars exploded at the entrance (of the complex)," the statement said, deriding Riyadh's efforts to portray the botched attack as a tribute to the Opec kingpin's security forces.

Saudi Arabia announced on Friday it had foiled an attack against its major oil processing plant, the first known attempt against such an installation in the world's top oil producer since a wave of al-Qaida terror broke out in May 2003.

"Security (forces) and staff of Saudi Aramco (the state oil conglomerate) succeeded in thwarting a terrorist attempt against the Abqaiq oil processing plants," Oil Minister Ali al-Nuaimi said immediately after the attempted attack.

Al-Qaida's local branch had issued another statement overnight claiming responsibility for the attempted assault in the kingdom, which sits on a quarter of the world's proven crude reserves.

A security official said that two security men and at least two assailants were killed in the attempted suicide car bomb attack at the gates of the Abqaiq complex.

The death of the two security men was confirmed in a statement by the interior ministry Saturday.

The closest al-Qaida's militants had previously got to Saudi oil installations was in May 2004, when a shooting rampage in a petrochemical complex in the Red Sea industrial port of Yanbu left six Westerners dead.

World oil prices leapt on news of the attempted attack. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, soared $2.37 to $62.91 per barrel in closing trading after spiking as high as $63.25.

At least 90 civilians, 54 security personnel and 125 militants have now died since al-Qaida's wave of terror began in the desert kingdom, triggering a relentless crackdown by security forces on suspected extremists. Hundreds more have been wounded.

In December 2004, al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden called on his followers to target oil installations in both the Gulf and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia currently pumps around 9.5 million barrels of oil per day and has an output capacity of 11 million bpd.

The Eastern Province was the scene of a major attack at the height of the unrest in May 2004, when a shooting and hostage-taking rampage in the city of Al-Khobar left 22 people dead, including four Westerners. *AFP*

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1,300 prisoners riot in Afghan jail

KABUL—ABOUT 1,300 PRISONERS AT Afghanistan's main jail took control of a prison block Sunday after a riot that prompted wardens to open fire and wound at least four inmates, officials said.

The prisoners, about 300 of them alleged members of the ousted Taliban government and their al-Qaida allies, had set fire to mattresses and furniture early Sunday and smoke was still rising from the complex, they said.

They had barricaded themselves inside a block at the high-security Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul and were refusing to hand over the injured for treatment, Deputy Justice Minister Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai said.

The riot erupted late Saturday when guards distributed new prison uniforms which some inmates refused to wear, another official said on condition of anonymity.

"There are 1,350 prisoners—half of them are political prisoners and half of them are criminal," Hashimzai said.

They had broken through walls separating different sections of the block, including a women's section, and "have joined together and organized a riot," he said.

"According to initial information, four prisoners were wounded when wardens opened fire because they wanted to extend the riot to the whole prison …" Hashimzai said.

"They have control of the wounded prisoners and they are not giving them to us so that we can treat them. We have doctors and ambulances ready here."

Authorities believed more than four prisoners could be wounded, Hashimzai said.

"We have created a security cordon around the block. We have control of the prison except for this one block," he said. *AFP*

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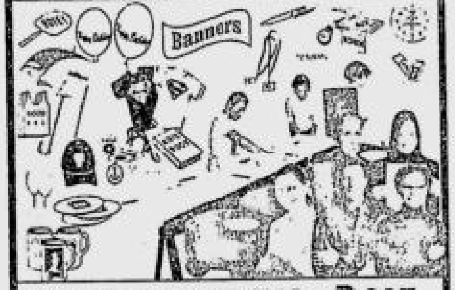

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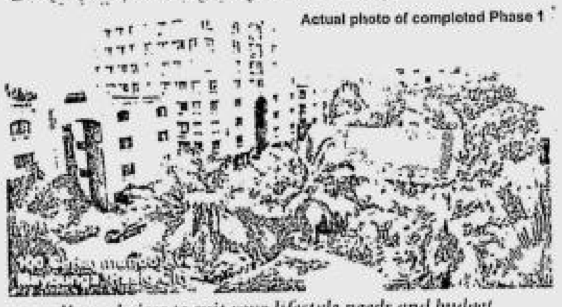

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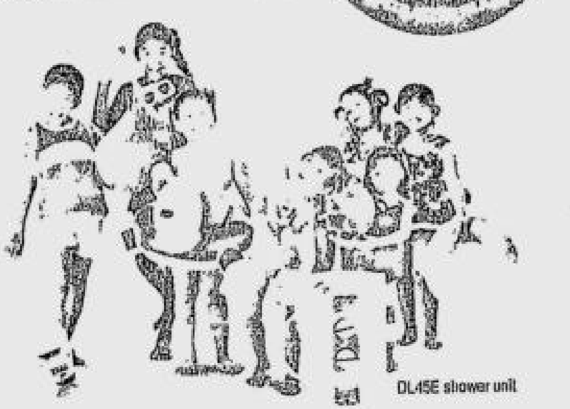

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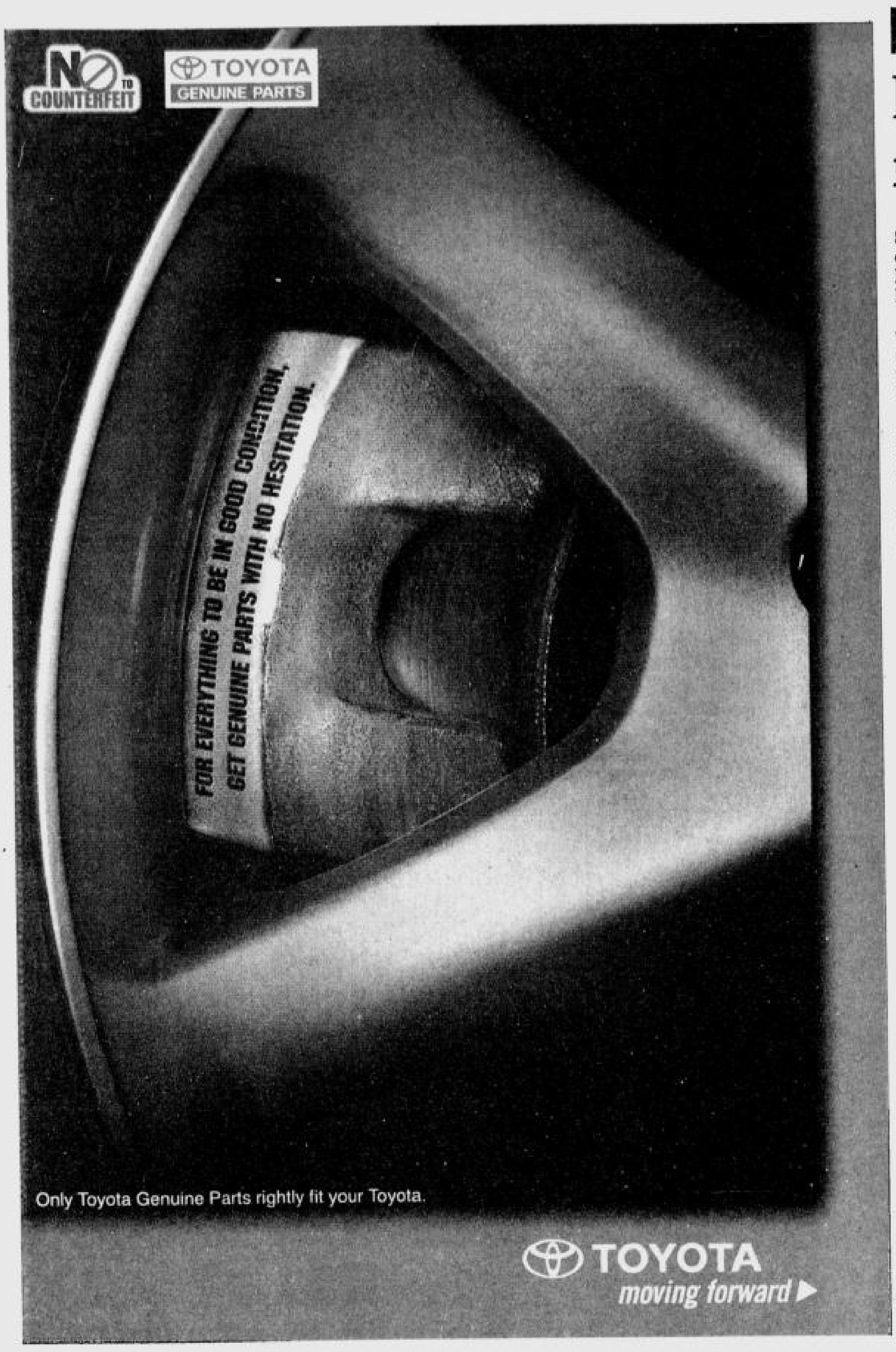
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Loved and loathed, Howard marks 10th year in power

SYDNEY—PRIME MINISTER JOHN HOWARD celebrates his 10th year in power this week, loved for making Australians richer but loathed for making them "meaner."

He is hailed by some as a strong leader who has won greater respect for this country but hated by others as a "deputy sheriff" of the United States who sent Australian troops to an unjust war in Iraq.

Howard has presided over Australia's longest post-war boom, with unemployment reaching record lows while property and stock markets soared.

But in a country which prides itself on giving everyone "a fair go," a recent poll showed that half the population believes Australians have become meaner under his conservative government.

Howard, 66, a less than charismatic former suburban solicitor ridiculed by cartoonists for his small stature, bushy eyebrows and imperfect teeth, has no such qualms.

"I don't think we've become meaner at all," he said in one of a series of interviews ahead of his 10th anniversary in power on Thursday.

"There's a tendency for people to always think that there was a golden era in the past of generosity which never quite existed."

Howard said he believed the greatest achievement of his government had been to develop "the strength, in a broad way of the Australian nation.

"It is of course economic strength but our sense of our confidence, our self-respect, our sense of our place in the world, all of those things are much stronger now."

There was no longer "this perpetual seminar on who we are or where we came from or where we are going, but we just get on with life and demonstrate in so may different ways what a great place it is."

Critics, however, charge Howard with failing to alleviate the despair of the marginalized aborigines, leaving at least a million Australians in poverty and eroding civil liberties in the name of fighting terrorism.

"The change wrought by Howard has been profound, a tectonic shift to the populist politics of individual selfishness on one hand and corporate gigantism on the other," wrote columnist Mike Carlton in the Sydney Morning Herald.

"War, poverty, civil liberties, common decency: These are merely the vapid obsessions of the latte-sipping 'elites,' who the Howardistas have brilliantly demonized as the new class enemy of all right-thinking Australians."

Howard has won four elections, capitalizing on economic growth and a perceived weakness of leadership within the opposition Labor Party, which he ousted in 1996 after it had held power for 13 years. *AFP*

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AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cebu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, through the Bids and Award Committee (BAC), invites all interested consultants to register for eligibility and to bid for the **Engagement of Financial Advisor for the Corporatization and Privatization of the Cebu Port Authority**.

Interested Consultants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Application for Eligibility to the Bids and Award Committee through BAC Secretariat on or before **March 6, 2006**.

The eligibility requirements may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the BAC Secretariat starting **March 7, 2006**. The eligibility of registered bidders shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria based on the eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements/documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address. The eligibility envelope shall be opened on **March 16, 2006**.

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat starting **March 29, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **April 7, 2006**, 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room, Cebu Port Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIO G. TAN**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **MARIANO C.J. MARTINEZ**
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France seeks to avert panic, losses over bird flu

PARIS—FRENCH AND EUROPEAN officials are hoping to avert popular panic and economic losses after the first outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu to strike an EU farm was confirmed in eastern France.

INDONESIAN vendor showing off a colored chick in Jakarta Feb. 26. Bird flu has killed its 20th human victim in Indonesia, a 27-year-old woman, according to the Indonesia health ministry.
REUTERS

While the European Union was coming to terms with the latest encroachment of the killer virus, back in Asia, where bird flu was first identified, Indonesia announced its 20th victim while China said two of its citizens were in critical condition after being infected with the virus.

Eight EU countries have so far confirmed cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, but until Saturday all these cases had been found in wild birds. So far the virus has not jumped from birds to humans.

The new French outbreak involves turkeys in a farm in the east of the country.

France had previously confirmed two cases of H5N1 bird flu, but both were in wild ducks found in the same area.

Experts fear that H5N1, which has killed more than 90 people, mostly in Asia, since 2003, may mutate into a form that can pass between humans, sparking a pandemic that could kill millions.

Human fatalities from the disease have been recorded in Vietnam, Indonesia, THailand, China, Cambodia, Turkey and Iraq.

The World Health OrganiZation has reported contamination by the deadly form of the virus in 13 new countries in February.

President Jacques Chirac publicly played down the development, munching on a piece of chicken that came from the area where the infected turkeys were found as he inaugurated an annual agricultural show in Paris.

"There is no interest in provoking a pyschosis, a panic, it's scandalous," he said, although there was no sign of poultry at the farm show.

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, who also visited the Paris show, said the flu outbreak in Europe was a problem but not a crisis, while not ruling out "real economic problems" posed and the need to support those whose livelihoods were threatened.

Sales of poultry from France, one of the world's top agricultural exporters, are already down 25-30 percent on the same period last year, with many firms in related industries announcing staff cuts.

Japan late Friday temporarily banned French poultry imports because of the bird flu outbreak.

Indonesia's human death toll from bird flu meanwhile hit the 20 mark on Saturday with confirmation that a 27-year-old woman had succumbed to the H5N1 virus.

The woman, a housewife who had direct contact with her neighbor's chickens, was admitted to a Jakarta hospital on Monday and died the same day, officials said.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, has witnessed more bird flu deaths than any other country this year, recording nine fatalities.

In China, the health ministry said a 9-year-old girl and a 26-year-old woman from the east of the country were seriously ill in hospital after becoming infected with H5N1, state media reported, bringing the total number of human infections in China to 14, of whom eight have died.

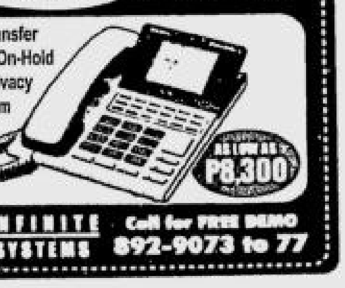
Both had come into contact with sick chickens.

People who had close contact with them have been put under medical observation by local health authorities, the report said, adding that so far they had shown no abnormal symptoms.

In India, animal health officials have expanded a zone for slaughtering chickens in the west of the country after the discovery of a second outbreak of bird flu.

Chickens at two farms in Gujarat state near the Maharashtra state border town of Navapur, the epicenter of the initial outbreak, were confirmed positive with the H5N1 strain on Saturday.

The properties were within a 10-kilometer zone where all farm birds were slaughtered after the initial confirmed outbreak, officials said. *AFP*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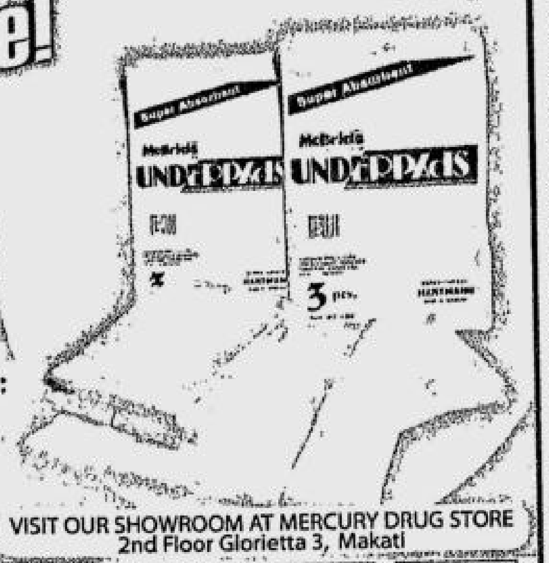
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TERESITA A. ANDERSON,
Petitioner,
-versus- **SSC Case No. 5-15903-05**
MARCELINA GENEROSO,
GENEVIEVE ANDERSON and
the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Respondents.
x---x

SUMMONS

TO : MARCELINA GENEROSO &
GENEVIEVE ANDERSON

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS Makati Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your answer to the petition filed by Teresita A. Anderson for entitlement to the benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Dennis Anderson, Sr.

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioner with address located at Block 4 Lot 12, Villa Matilder, Baesa, Project 8, Quezon City, and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice President, Legal and Collection, SSS, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makati City, Philippines, February 9, 2006.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Feb. 27, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www. peza.gov.ph

Security Services Requirement of PEZA

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 29,652,780.00 per annum being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Security Services Requirement of PEZA. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Security Services Requirement of PEZA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in providing security services and should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and purchased by interested Bidders from 21 February to 03 March 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PhP 10,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 09 March 2006, 2:00 p.m at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 21 March 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 21 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III Roxas Blvd corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F Almeda Building III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-6587
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
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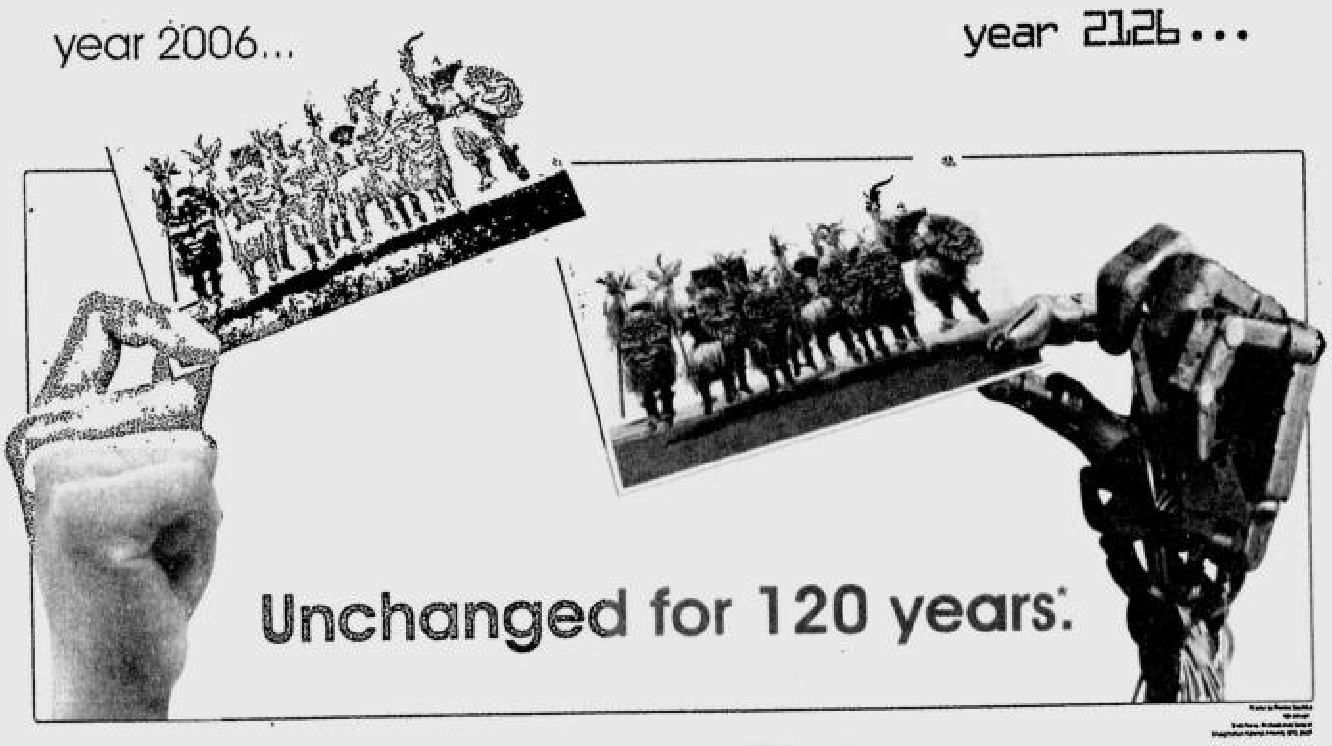
THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - February 20 & 27, 2006)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OPINION

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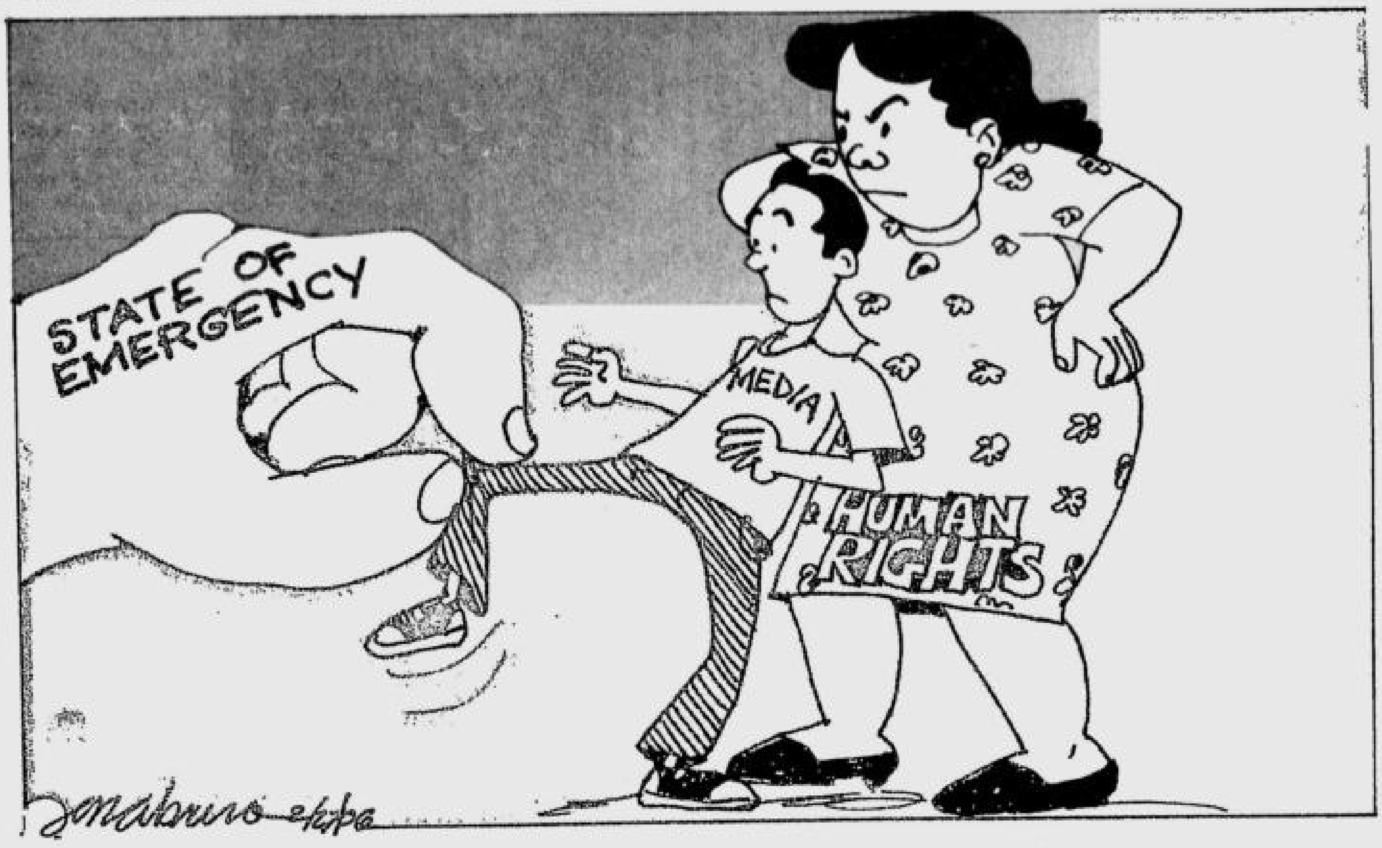

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To the President's declaration of war, we can only offer a counter-declaration. She can count on us to do our share in defending democracy.

Pinoys no longer afraid of martial rule

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WASN'T IT SAD AND IRONIC THAT ON THE very day that we were commemorating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, that shining moment in our history when we broke the chains of a dictator, another dictator would emerge and put us back in chain, virtually bringing us again into those dark days of martial law? What is happening in our poor country today is proving the saying that "history repeats itself."

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But the people have learned, too. Having survived 14 years of Marcos' dictatorship, they are no longer afraid of another martial regime. They are no longer afraid of being arrested and imprisoned. Being arrested now for political offenses is a badge of honor. Indeed, many of the people that Marcos had clamped in jail were later elected by the people to the Senate, to the House of Representatives, to local government units. Some of them even became Cabinet members. Many of our present leaders now, pro- and anti-administration, were former Marcos detainees.

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The only continuing threat to the Republic is not an ongoing mutiny, it is an ongoing rule shrouded in illegitimacy. I was listening to CNN last Friday and their correspondent was saying the widespread perception here was that GMA had rigged the elections with the help of a Comelec commissioner. The host asked if emergency rule was not going to deepen the perception she could rule only by force. The correspondent said yes, it would. I agree one thousand percent. It would, and it does. Since last Friday, GMA has shown she can now rule only by force.

The only solution to rebellions and uprisings, real or imagined, is not for GMA to crush the freedoms of this country so that she may survive. The only solution to rebellions and uprisings, real or imagined, is for GMA to step down so that this country may breathe. Take it from Cory who defied her order for all rallies to cease on the day given to celebrating the reclamation of freedom and who asked her with customary politeness to make the ultimate sacrifice of resigning. Which sounded not unlike asking her husband to make the ultimate sacrifice of living within his means, but that is another story.

I myself have been asking for GMA to be ousted, and will continue to do so. But by constitutional means, not by unconstitutional ones: By People Power and not by a coup. If People Power is unconstitutional, then GMA has no right to exist, her right to govern would have been voided from the start. For even stranger than GMA restoring martial law on the day it was dismantled 20 years ago is GMA declaring illegal the very thing that brought her to power—against the one president in this country whose electoral mandate was ironclad. I remember again my arduously defending the legitimacy of Edsa II against my foreign journalist friends who thought it was a mere coup wrought by the elite against a populist leader. I continue to maintain it was genuine People Power for reasons I will not go into here. But if it was debatable then, it is not debatable now. An act of People Power against an arguably illegitimate president is unarguably legitimate.

Proclamation 1017—it is one of God's mysterious ways that that should sound like Marcos' Proclamation 1081 plunging the country into the darkness of martial law—is a martial law decree, not an emergency act. It posits among its "whereas-es" that media have been aiding an insidious conspiracy which has got to stop. The premise is wrong to begin with: it is not a conspiracy, it is an open and popular demand. Few people in this country bother to hide or disguise their disgust over the Arroyo administration and their fervent desire to see it go. Even the aborted coup—which the AFP chief of staff himself refuses to call so; he calls it a "threatened withdrawal of support"—was so openly advertised, with a view to convincing the higher-ups in the military chain of command to go along with it. Where in the world will you find a coup like that?

But more than that, that "whereas" is vicious, aimed not at stopping uprisings but dissent, not at stopping power-grabs but protest, not at stopping coups but criticism. Henceforth, all dissent, protest and criticism against GMA become an aid to a conspiracy. That is the justification for the crackdown that has already begun. The takeover of the Tribune is a brazen trampling of press freedom. That and the arrest of Beltran and the manhunt for Ocampo show the tactics of the nascent dictatorship, which is to begin with the "fringe" groups first and go for the mainstream. Tribune is associated with Erap, and Beltran and Ocampo have been painted red. First, the weak links, then the strong ones. They get away with this, they will go for the rest of media.

This is no time to be cowed, this is a time to fight back. As Bertolt Brecht said, you do not protest when the Nazis come to take your neighbors because they are Jews and communists, they will come to take you one day. I recall as well while writing "Dead Aim," a book on how Marcos declared martial law, something Blas Ople told me in an interview. Marcos, he said, never really thought of martial law as lasting as long as it did and becoming as vicious as it did. He declared it to buy time to explore various options. But he was surprised when it met with no resistance. So "*tinuloy-tuloy na*," he went at it full blast.

You do not stop dictatorship now, it will go full blast. They've pretty much stolen everything, must they steal your freedom too?

Protest. Defy. Fight back.

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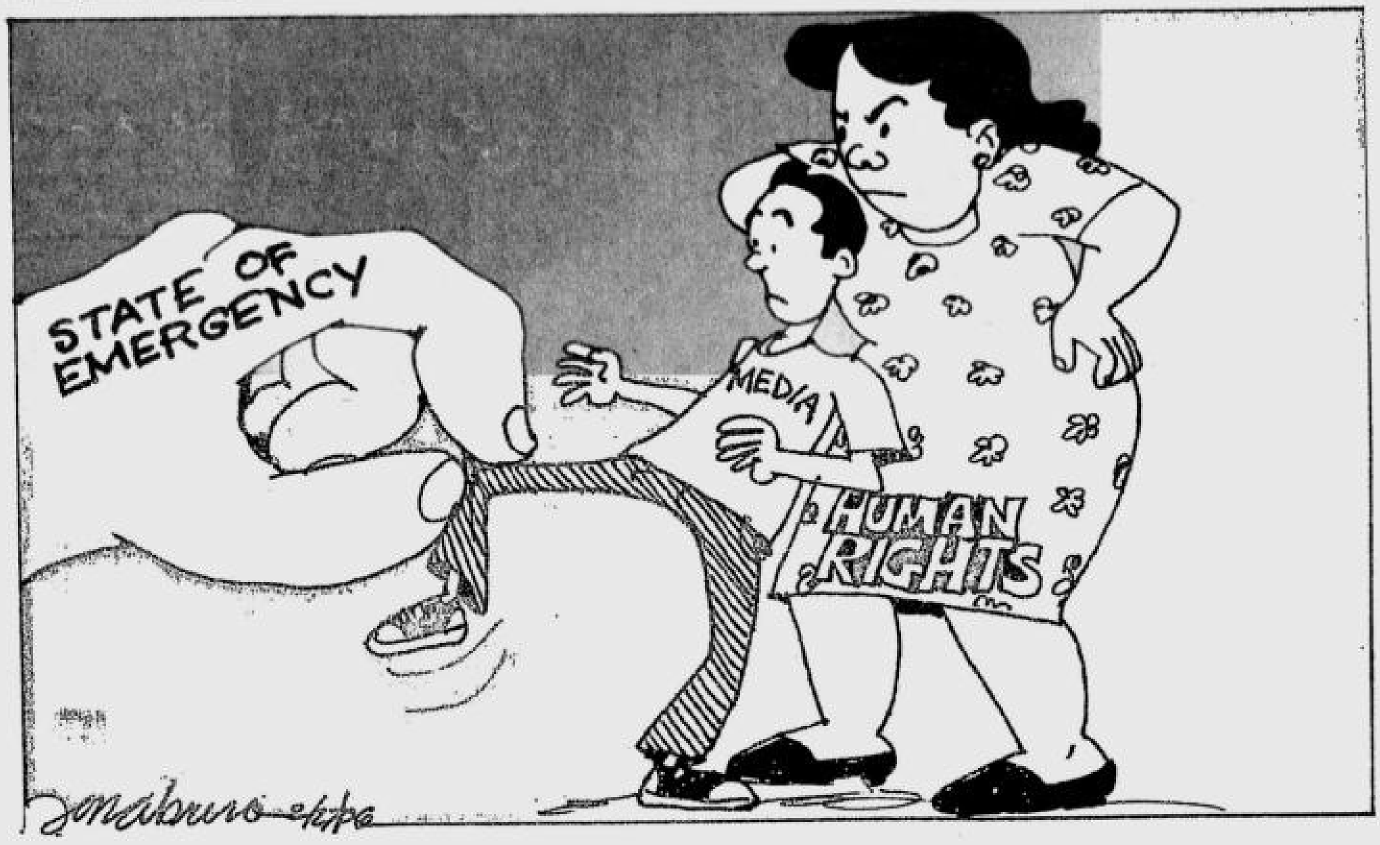

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The only solution to rebellions and uprisings, real or imagined, is not for GMA to crush the freedoms of this country so that she may survive. The only solution to rebellions and uprisings, real or imagined, is for GMA to step down so that this country may breathe. Take it from Cory who defied her order for all rallies to cease on the day given to celebrating the reclamation of freedom and who asked her with customary politeness to make the ultimate sacrifice of resigning. Which sounded not unlike asking her husband to make the ultimate sacrifice of living within his means, but that is another story.

I myself have been asking for GMA to be ousted, and will continue to do so. But by constitutional means, not by unconstitutional ones: By People Power and not by a coup. If People Power is unconstitutional, then GMA has no right to exist, her right to govern would have been voided from the start. For even stranger than GMA restoring martial law on the day it was dismantled 20 years ago is GMA declaring illegal the very thing that brought her to power—against the one president in this country whose electoral mandate was ironclad. I remember again my arduously defending the legitimacy of Edsa II against my foreign journalist friends who thought it was a mere coup wrought by the elite against a populist leader. I continue to maintain it was genuine People Power for reasons I will not go into here. But if it was debatable then, it is not debatable now. An act of People Power against an arguably illegitimate president is unarguably legitimate.

Proclamation 1017—it is one of God's mysterious ways that that should sound like Marcos' Proclamation 1081 plunging the country into the darkness of martial law—is a martial law decree, not an emergency act. It posits among its "whereas-es" that media have been aiding an insidious conspiracy which has got to stop. The premise is wrong to begin with: it is not a conspiracy, it is an open and popular demand. Few people in this country bother to hide or disguise their disgust over the Arroyo administration and their fervent desire to see it go. Even the aborted coup—which the AFP chief of staff himself refuses to call so; he calls it a "threatened withdrawal of support"—was so openly advertised, with a view to convincing the higher-ups in the military chain of command to go along with it. Where in the world will you find a coup like that?

But more than that, that "whereas" is vicious, aimed not at stopping uprisings but dissent, not at stopping power-grabs but protest, not at stopping coups but criticism. Henceforth, all dissent, protest and criticism against GMA become an aid to a conspiracy. That is the justification for the crackdown that has already begun. The takeover of the Tribune is a brazen trampling of press freedom. That and the arrest of Beltran and the manhunt for Ocampo show the tactics of the nascent dictatorship, which is to begin with the "fringe" groups first and go for the mainstream. Tribune is associated with Erap, and Beltran and Ocampo have been painted red. First, the weak links, then the strong ones. They get away with this, they will go for the rest of media.

This is no time to be cowed, this is a time to fight back. As Bertolt Brecht said, you do not protest when the Nazis come to take your neighbors because they are Jews and communists, they will come to take you one day. I recall as well while writing "Dead Aim," a book on how Marcos declared martial law, something Blas Ople told me in an interview. Marcos, he said, never really thought of martial law as lasting as long as it did and becoming as vicious as it did. He declared it to buy time to explore various options. But he was surprised when it met with no resistance. So "*tinuloy-tuloy na*," he went at it full blast.

You do not stop dictatorship now, it will go full blast. They've pretty much stolen everything, must they steal your freedom too?

Protest. Defy. Fight back.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Three emergency situations

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN 2002 NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ROILO Golez set alarm bells ringing when he came out of a Malacañang conference, announcing that President Macapagal-Arroyo was ready to declare a state of emergency in General Santos. The announcement conjured up visions of arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention. Then, as now, we had not yet recovered from the martial law trauma. Hence the alarm bells had to be doused immediately. Golez himself clarified that a state of emergency is a "generic term" which enables the government to choose from a menu of options.

Last Friday, when Malacañang first hinted at a possible declaration of a national state of emergency, alarm bells erupted. It again conjured up visions of arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention. And a glib Malacañang spokesperson did not help to assuage fears. Neither did the excessive zeal of some minions of the law. The excessive zeal only continues to threaten public safety.

What is a state of emergency all about and what additional powers, if any, does it give the executive arm?

There are in the Constitution three situations in which government is called upon to deal with emergency; but in none of the texts is emergency defined. In fact, in the most severe of these situations, dealt with by Article VII, Section 18, the word emergency is not even mentioned. It is simply described.

Article VII, Section 18 speaks of "lawless violence, invasion or rebellion" which challenge "public safety." These are situations which threaten law and order and national security. They are situations which call for immediate action. Clearly they are emergency situations. And it is the President who is authorized to make the initial assessment whether these situations exist. Moreover, having verified their existence, she is authorized by the Constitution to deal with them through a platter of graduated powers.

The most important is the power to impose martial law which broadens the police power of the President. Less in severity is the power to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus which authorizes the executive to limit physical liberty. The mildest is the power to call on the Armed Forces to come to the aid of the police in the prevention or suppression of lawless violence or rebellion. It is this last which President Arroyo used when she issued Proclamation 1017. And to all appearances, her minions are reading it as a declaration of war.

Does calling on the Armed Forces give the President additional executive powers? In substance, no; but it does give her more vigor in the enforcement of law and order which is her daily duty anyway. In the exercise of her law enforcement power, she can make use of all the legal instruments available for law enforcement and within the limits prescribed by the Constitution. Calling on the Armed Forces does not authorize her to cross constitutional demarcation lines. But the danger of abuse is significantly enhanced. Now the iron fist is more and more showing behind the mask.

Another provision on emergency is Article VI, Section 23(2) which says: "In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy."

Here, war is certainly considered a national emergency situation but it is not the only emergency situation envisioned. The provision also covers emergency situations mentioned by Article VII, Section 18 as well as situations created by epidemics, typhoons, earthquakes or other natural calamities. But Congress must first agree that a national emergency exists, and the extent and the duration of the powers conferred on the President are determined by Congress.

The third emergency situation is found in Article XII, Section 17 which says: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

In trying to understand this provision, which among other things leaves "national emergency" undefined, it is important to recall its provenance. It was born during the martial law regime. You don't find a similar provision in the 1935 Constitution. Moreover, the only time it was used was during martial law. In fact, this provision got into the 1973 Constitution, inspired by Marcos' Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 2, dated 22 September 1972. This LOI instructed the Secretary of National Defense to take over "the management, control and operation of the Manila Electric Company, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, the Philippine National Railways, the Philippine Air Lines, Air Manila (and) Filipinas Orient Airways ... for the successful prosecution by the Government of its effort to contain, solve and end the present national emergency." It was done in the exercise of martial law powers and it was among the executive acts which the Constitutional Convention wanted ratified through Section 3(2), Article XVII of the 1973 Constitution.

In my view, therefore, Article XII, Section 17 embodies a martial law power of the President. It is noteworthy, however, that in referring to Article XII, Section 17, Ms Arroyo, in 1017, simply used it as a springboard for declaring a national state of emergency; she did not attempt to exercise the power embodied in the provision. In fact, she omitted citing the power that the provision embodies. But it is a veiled threat which PNP chief Arturo Lomibao has unveiled.

The demise of free speech

COMMENTARY

Florin T. Hilbay

ON THE DAY FILIPINOS WERE TO COMMEMORATE the rebirth of democracy, President Macapagal-Arroyo, apparently the target of "a concerted and systematic conspiracy," issued Proclamation 1017 declaring a "State of National Emergency." Using her commander in chief powers under Art. VII, Sec. 18 of the Constitution, she called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well *(sic)* any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by [her] personally or upon [her] direction."

Pursuant to the proclamation, all scheduled rallies were cancelled; protesters (including UP Prof. Randy David) were apprehended and violently dispersed; the National Telecommunications Commission broached the possibility of revocation of franchise or takeover of media companies that engage in "irresponsible" reporting, such as interviewing dissidents; a 6 p.m. curfew was imposed on the Malacañang press corps; and one major newspaper was raided; others were surveilled.

What we have here is the screaming disparity between the language of 1017 and the manner by which it is operationalized. Indeed, while 1017 mimics the language of the Constitution, the acts performed under its authority are totally at odds with the guarantees of freedom embodied in our fundamental law. The language is betrayed by the deeds that give it flesh. Those who believe that 1017 consists of mere "notice" or that it is "pointless" to challenge it, dangerously overlook the fact that all these actions rely, for their legitimacy, on the validity of the proclamation.

First. The President has no constitutional authority to place a blanket prohibition on rallying. The Bill of Rights denies the government the power to abridge the right of peaceful assembly. Lest the President forget, this is the same principle the Supreme Court relied upon in Estrada v. Macapagal-Arroyo, in recognizing the legitimacy of her assumption to power.

The streets constitute a public forum and a marketplace of ideas. The limited role of government is to ensure public access to this forum, through reasonable "time, place, and manner" regulations. Prohibition is no proxy for regulation.

The core value of free speech is the protection of political dissent. The President cannot monopolize speech by suppressing peaceful expression without violating the Constitution.

Second. The arrest of David and others highlight the selective implementation of 1017. Televised accounts show police reactions to the "no-rally policy," ranging from maximum tolerance to downright intolerance. Thus, the scholar was imprisoned while the religious leader was let loose; the activists were arrested while senators and former President Cory Aquino were guarded at a distance.

This power to arrest people on the streets rests on such vague standards that compliance becomes impossible and its enforcement arbitrary. This discretionary space has a maximum chilling effect on people's civil liberties.

Third. The threat of takeover of some media perceived as providing information inimical to a vague notion of national interest is both a system of prior restraint and subsequent punishment. It compels the media to engage in a kind of self-censorship that has nothing to do with the search for truth and everything to do with avoiding the censor's wrath.

The threats not only make media paranoid about striking the "proper balance" between responsible and reckless journalism; it also pushes media to engage in viewpoint discrimination—news overbalanced in favor of GMA is always OK, but news critical of her is now always suspect.

On Sept. 21, 1972, President Marcos issued Proclamation 1081. The first paragraph read:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, *President of the Philippines by virtue of the power vested upon me by* Article VII, Sec. 10, Paragraph (2) *of this Constitution*, do hereby place the entire Philippines as defined in Article I, Sec. 1 of the Constitution under martial law and, *in my capacity as their Commander-In-Chief, do hereby command the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction.*

The italicized portion of the above quote is contained, verbatim, in Ms Arroyo's proclamation minus the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. Any first-year law student knows that GMA will not openly declare martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ as this will oblige her to report to Congress and risk a rebuke from the Supreme Court. And yet, despite an absence of the words, the military shadows civilian movements and warrantless arrests have been made.

Karl Llewelyn wrote, "the working Constitution is amended whenever the basic ways of government are changed." What he meant is that the democracy we signed up for may be altered, through interpretation, by those who hold public power. Thus, we should scrutinize not only what the text of the Constitution provides, but what the President says it means; we should rely not simply on what the President says, but on what she actually does. If we fail to heed this advice, we might find ourselves holding the same Constitution, but with an entirely different meaning.

Florin T. Hilbay teaches Constitutional Law and Legal Theory at the University of the Philippines. He ranked first in the 2000 Bar exams.

A lapdog republic

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THERE IS THIS POINT OF VIEW THAT A PRESIDENTIAL proclamation serves to publicize the state of mind of the chief executive. President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation 1017 suggests a Marcosian state of mind. Lawyers have pointed out that the closing paragraph of the proclamation was lifted virtually verbatim from one of the most notorious proclamations in presidential and Philippine history: Proclamation 1081 of Sept. 21, 1972. Now, if there is something journalists have in common with lawyers, it's an interest in precision when it comes to language: words, phrases, even punctuation, are not used carelessly (if one takes any pride at all in one's work); and the use of sources reveals, clearly and beyond a shadow of a doubt, the political color of a writer. If you are a Marxist, you quote Marx, Engels, possibly Lenin and Mao; if you are a democrat, you quote Jefferson, Adams, Burke and Rousseau; if you are for non-violence, you quote Gandhi and the Dalai Lama; if you are a fascist, you look to Mussolini, Hitler and Marcos.

No democratically inclined president, and no lawyer working for a president insistent about maintaining democracy by the ways of democracy (to adapt a phrase from Cory Aquino) would even contemplate using the word "decree" in an executive issuance with democratic and republican intentions. And yet this is what Ms Arroyo did.

Proclaimed she: "[I]n my capacity as their Commander in Chief, do hereby command the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well [as] any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction." Which might be fine and dandy except no president since Marcos has claimed the right to issue decrees; not even Cory Aquino, during the period of absolute power she enjoyed until the ratification of the present Constitution, was bold, careless, or crass enough to use that word. And yet, Ms Arroyo does: because her lawyers copied the language from Marcos, and the President, who presumably closely reads everything she signs, found nothing offensive with the presumption she can issue decrees, even in a democratic setting.

If you, the reader, are inclined to quibble with me about one word in a document, bear in mind that for writers, lawyers and readers—that is, for everyone who is literate—words are everything. Be that as it may, here's an additional point.

The President's personal lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, has been parroting a phrase to defend the President's proclamation (regardless of the origin of part of its contents): "Presumption of regularity." This is, indeed, something that accompanies all issuances coming from government authorities. It is also the weakest of rhetorical appeals—an appeal to authority.

When the government uses a warrant issued by the dictatorship to arrest an elected member of the House, 21 years after the warrant was issued; when a professor and students, who dare to exercise their democratic rights, and insist on doing it peacefully such that they take the trouble to dialogue with the police, are assaulted, rounded up, detained and questioned—only to be released without charges; when a newspaper is raided and its issue for the day prevented from rolling off the press; and then the government appoints military minders to watch over it while the presidential chief of staff claims, without batting an eyelash, that this does not constitute editorial interference; when the justice secretary and the head of the national police make pointed remarks that they can arbitrarily decide which media can continue to function (implying all media operates on their sufferance); when it is announced that a widow wanting to lay a wreath at the foot of the monument of her husband, and those who wish to recall their efforts to overthrow a dictatorship, all face the possibility of arrest or at least "dispersal"; there can be no presumption of regularity. There can only be a presumption of irregularity.

Fear, selectively applied, is the dusk announcing the more promiscuous enforcement of terror in the dark night that's falling. Intimidation is required if selective official amnesia is to prevail.

Consider that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim is said to have attempted to convince the AFP chief of staff to join him in withdrawing support from the President. The armed forces has said, in no uncertain terms, that in its determination of the facts, General Lim wanted to join ralliers and make his position known. As far as the chronology goes, this means a mutiny was contemplated by disgruntled military elements, and not a coup d'etat. Withdrawal of support was what the President and her husband actively courted the leadership of the armed forces to undertake Edsa II; and while it is said that history is written by the victors, it must also be seen that she herself once encouraged what she now condemns.

But then, we are dealing with a government whose chief of police proudly proclaimed last Friday: "We have liberated Edsa." From whom, you might ask? Why, from the people. It is a proud boast that Ferdinand Marcos once so badly wanted to make.

The Palace proclaimed a strange kind of victory: the kind that requires a continuing state of siege. It trumpeted the triumph of order and democracy—at the expense of liberty. It has substituted CPR, EO 464 and Proclamation 1017, for liberty, equality and fraternity. We are left with the bow-wow-wow, the yip-yip-yip, of a lapdog republic, in which Palace pets are all vying to paw and sniff at the Palace food and water bowl: and snarling at anyone questioning their position in the pack.

Go, figure

COMMENTARY

Juan Miguel Luz

IF THE NATIONAL BUDGET GETS TO BE REENACTED IN 2006, the Department of Education stands to lose P5.6 billion in new funds urgently needed to improve the public school system. That's the economics of a political decision, plain and simple.

Broken down, the DepEd stands to lose:

- 10,000 new teacher, education supervisor, and non-teaching items (worth P1.0 billion)
- School feeding program funds for two million Grades 1-3 pupils (P1.6 billion)
- Basic Education Madrasah Program funds for Filipino-Muslim students (P100 million)
- Additional funds for the maintenance and operation of elementary and secondary schools nationwide (P500 million)
- Additional funds for the GASTPE "voucher" program which assists private schools to take in high school students from overcrowded public schools (additional 50,000 slots worth P127 million)
- Additional funds for the training of teachers in English, Science and Math (P500 million)
- 1,000 pre-schools in fourth to sixth class municipalities without day-care centers (P250 million)
- Additional textbooks for English (P1 billion)
- Additional P150 million for the computerization of public high schools
- P120 million for the renovation of 60 library hubs and 12 regional educational learning centers for teacher training
- Schools First Initiative Fund which will enable schools and principals to propose innovative school-based projects on a competitive basis (P50,000 grants for up to 5,000 public schools nationwide, or P250 million)

All of the above reflect the urgent priorities of our public school system. All of them are consistent with the "Schools First" reform agenda the DepEd laid out in late 2002 under Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and continued under Secretary Florencio Abad and now Acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo—an agenda representing a continuing DepEd policy to improve our public education system so that it will produce better results and higher individual and collective achievement levels.

Considering the continued poor performance of our public school system and its shortages vis-à-vis the huge growth in enrollment, a reenacted budget would be criminal. Especially when we continue to declare that education is and must continue to be our No. 1 priority.

In February 2005, the DepEd was given a budget ceiling (for 2006) that reflects zero percent growth or exactly the same level as the 2005 budget (P112 billion), notwithstanding the fact that enrollment grows by close to 3 percent per year. In more specific terms, this means the DepEd is expected to service 500,000 pupils and students more (on top of the 2.5 million six and 7-year-olds who enter Grade 1) with the same budget as the previous year's. This is like providing for a growing family with the same household budget already affected by inflation. That's simple home economics.

To correct this oversight, in March 2005, we at the DepEd made a 10-year budget simulation (up to 2015) and presented this to the Neda board technical working group to make the case for a consistent increase in the department's budget. We projected enrollments all the way to 2015 and what would be needed in terms of classrooms, textbooks, teachers, computers, equipment, and so on.

In the Neda presentation, we also suggested that this administration and the next one (2010-2016) should be prepared to increase the DepEd budget by 8 percent every year for the next five years, and at least 6 percent thereafter if we are to catch up with shortages, cope with our fast population growth, and keep more children from dropping out of school. We showed that if we worked to keep 10 percent more children in school at the end of elementary and secondary levels (i.e., prevent dropouts), this could result in a million more students above and beyond the normal population growth rate.

That was how we presented the magnitude of the public education problem.

As a result of the lobbying at Neda, P5.5 billion was added to the proposed 2006 DepEd budget (an addition of 6 percent based on the 2005 budget).

A reenacted budget will throw all of this away, leaving us to operate under 2005's P112-billion budget. More kids in school, same budget. As they say, "Go, figure."

In the past five years, four annual budgets were approved late (and not released till April or June of the fiscal year), and one was re-enacted (2004). If a policy instrument reflecting the spending priorities of the executive branch is discarded so easily and re-enacted, then one has to wonder what the real priorities of government are and two other things: One, who is in control of policy here? Two, how committed is the administration to its so-called priorities, including education?

A delay in the approval of the budget hurts because it places unnecessary administrative limits in the first quarter of the new year. For all other agencies, the first quarter (January-March) is the start of a spending year and the fiscal managers try to keep government spending down during this quarter. But for the DepEd, it is the end (or the last quarter) of its spending year, which is reckoned with the school year. It is the time that DepEd needs the money in order to finish strongly by making sure children are meeting their competency levels.

Because of the delayed budget approval, the DepEd's MOE (maintenance and operating expenses) is curtailed and limited to 75 percent of the actual allocation. (Salaries and benefits are always paid in full.) Worse, because the budget approval has been delayed (or reenacted) every year these past five years (that's every year of the Arroyo administration; in the first year understandably so because of the Estrada impeachment case), unspent first-quarter allotments are inevitably lost because the budget department does not release what can no longer be technically spent.

Delayed budgets also mean that capital outlay, including critical classroom construction that should be done during the dry months, cannot be started until the last half of the year when it is already the rainy season. It is not sensible or efficient to build during the rainy or typhoon season.

The national budget should be enacted into law by the end of every year so that government service can proceed unimpeded and with quality outcomes. Instead, we are forced into a waiting game by the politics of the budget and all of us—the entire country—are the worse for it.

Juan Miguel Luz is the Department of Education's undersecretary for finance and administration (on-leave).

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Time to restore democracy

I WAS NOT THERE WHEN THE cry for freedom at Edsa wafted through the air. I was with my grandmother, glued to the black-and-white television screen, listening to Juan Ponce Enrile's appeal for support from the people.

All of us in our family were Marcos supporters, and I think most Filipinos at that time were, because of fear. But when we saw Imelda Marcos cut off from the TV broadcast, it was then that the true feelings of my family and, I think, of most Filipinos, surfaced. We hated the dictator but we did not have the outlet to vent it. At that young, tender age, I said to myself that the second time this happens, I will be there to celebrate with the people. Four years of studies at the University of the Philippines, five years of work as a broadcast journalist, and several years as an executive did not diminish this desire.

However, my desire for true and meaningful change crystallized. Specifically, some kind of change that would lead to the true liberation of the people from oppression and poverty. As a journalist, my eyes were opened to the realities of poverty. As a police beat reporter, I saw corruption in the lowest rungs of society. As an executive, I saw how corruption has bred itself into the system. Corruption has become endemic in our national psyche and has become our way of life. Our people need another enlightenment to correct this flaw.

This made me join Edsa II. Despite having friends who were serving the Estrada administration, I fought for its downfall, believing that the former economic professor would be better than the former actor. A year later, I was regretting having supported the professor. She's better than Erap all right—better at manipulation, better at lying, even better at corruption.

As early as 2002, I and my friends have been calling for her ouster. When we should be content with having money and enjoying good, comfortable lives, we went to the streets, determined to make the people understand that the professor will make life more miserable, harder for the Filipino.

Four years later, events have proven us correct. Now, she's hell-bent on clinging to power, even if the Pasig River overflows and sweeps the Palace away. She's exercising every bit of her power to stay on. She is ready to spend millions, even billions, of the people's money to bribe decision-makers.

She must be ousted before she wrecks more havoc in our country. The last thing our country needs is a second dictator.

The world is going the way of open societies and we are going in the opposite direction. It's time to restore democracy. It's time for change. Again.

—REVO RIVERA,
rem_rivera@yahoo.com

Scattered worldwide, some 'people' still activists

WHERE'S THE "PEOPLE" IN People Power? INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros asked in his Feb. 23 column. "By all means, let's talk about People Power today. But let's remember too—the people." The call struck a chord.

Political detainees are now scattered all over the world, having gone separate ways long ago. But one thing sure, we'll never forget our being Filipinos who fought for democracy.

I was one of the political detainees during the Marcos regime and I'm now very active in Gawad Kalinga, as a volunteer. I believe a GK volunteer is also an activist. An activist because we are doing active, positive work for the betterment of our ailing nation.

I do appreciate De Quiros' sentiments.

—GLORIA LILLY,
oya23@earthlink.net

Poorer and hungrier 20 years after Edsa I

THIS IS A STRONG, RINGING one-liner: "Twenty years after Edsa, the Filipino is deeper in debt, poorer and hungrier."

It is unfair to blame only President Macapagal-Arroyo for the country's debts and poverty.

Since 1986, we have had four presidents, and they should all be held accountable for the sad state of affairs the Philippines is now in.

—NATALIE PEREZ,
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Money can't solve poverty

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the release of government savings, amounting to P35 billion, to combat poverty.

I don't think this re-allocation will permanently solve poverty or erase hunger. No amount of money can buy a permanent solution to the problem of poverty. We have the technology to solve hunger, but not the social and government institutions. This kind of knowledge is not something that can be researched but is a value learned and committed to heart by the people.

We can very well use the P35 billion to address more fundamental concerns—like the migration of people to urban centers (where they become squatters) and floods (we can start dredging and clearing all city *esteros*). We should make sure that only qualified people who know the traffic rules get a driver's license.

Since, we are mostly Roman Catholic, we should avoid acting as if we are not. We should uphold the true standards of morality. Our religious leaders can help by recognizing and interpreting the signs of the times, instead of asking for more tithes and charging higher fees for wedding, baptismal and funeral rites. They should encourage genuine love of neighbor and promote morality.

Otherwise, there will be more lying, killing, stealing, red tape, adultery and criminal acts in our society.

—P.N. BELTRAN,
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Like a 'scabbarded saber'

RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTice Isagani A. Cruz lauded Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. for the latter's ponencia in National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore), et al. v. Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and Manila Electric Company, which relied heavily on the decision in the earlier case of Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) v. ERC and Meralco (penned by Justice Dante O. Tifiga) and cited the Tañada v. Tuvera case. But then Cruz seemed to chide Tiñga for not citing Tañada v. Tuvera in his FDC decision. (PDI, 2/10/06)

A reading of Callejo's Nasecore decision would show that it relied on the FDC precedent in declaring void the order of the ERC granting Meralco's petition for a generation charge increase under the Generation Charge Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM) because the said petition was not published in accordance with the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) Implementing Rules." Meralco had argued that the publication was not necessary as this was not required by the GRAM implementing rules.

The Court pointed out, however, that the GRAM implementing rules were ineffective because they were not published and, in this regard, cited the case of Tañada v. Tuvera, where the Court held that prior publication of all laws, including those of local application and private laws, is a condition precedent for their effectivity. Through the eloquent pen of Cruz, the Court in Tañada v. Tuvera likened unpublished statutes to the "scabbarded saber that cannot feint, parry or cut unless the naked blade is drawn."

It can thus be seen that while both cases concern due process, the Court's ruling in Tañada v. Tuvera as to the indispensability of publication for statutes does not really apply to the FDC case.

The main issues in the latter case are (1) whether the ERC has the legal authority to grant provisional rate adjustments under the Epira; and (2) whether it committed grave abuse of discretion in issuing an order approving Meralco's provisional rate increase despite the latter's failure to cause the publication of its application, thereby depriving consumers of the needed information to determine whether to contest the application and to consider the comments or pleadings of the customers and LGU concerned.

The Court resolved both issues in the affirmative, ruling that while the ERC has the authority to grant provisional rate adjustments, its order granting Meralco's application for a provisional rate increase is void because Meralco failed to publish its application as required by Epira's implementing rules; and because the ERC failed to consider the arguments raised by the opposers in their respective pleadings.

There was no issue as to the validity of the Epira's implementing rules, which were in fact published in accordance with law, unlike the GRAM implementing rules.

—ISMAEL G. KHAN JR.,
deputy court administrator
and chief,
Public Information Office,
Supreme Court,
Padre Faura, Manila

Now comes the presidential pony

I READ THE NEWS THAT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo gave her first grandchild a pony as a gift for her latest birthday. With all due respect, may I point out the implications of this action. (PDI, 1/10/06)

Our country has been going through a tunnel of hardships for years now. I do not begrudge the pleasure of a child receiving such a prized gift. But the money used to buy this pony could have fed not only one but many homeless families. And to think that these families don't even have the money to buy a day's meal while the money needed to pay for the pony's food is much more than what is needed to buy a poor man's meal.

As President, Ms Arroyo should realize that her every action counts. How dare she to flaunt her riches before the people while others are starving and dying out in the streets. She stubbornly clings to power, but power demands great sacrifices. She should prove herself up to these demands. The masses don't think she is, not even after almost five years in the presidency.

This is not about the pony. This is about her being the President, of her being the highest official of the land, of being a servant first to her people, who have pinned in her their hopes for a better life. But by this singular gift, she has shown how unfeeling she is as a leader and how readily she can betray their trust in her; and, therefore, she is no longer worthy to be this country's leader.

She who cannot feel her people's pain and suffering cannot be a leader because her life is far removed from theirs. She is expected, nay obliged, to give her people a better life, not to flaunt a lifestyle that insults the very people she should be serving.

—ARIELLE SULIT,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05

Contract for the Construction of 100 TCC Warehouse at Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with CIAP Registration of at least Medium A, to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Construction of 100,000 Cavans Capacity Warehouse
Location	NFA Compound, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City
Brief Description	Contract Involves the Complete Construction of a Warehouse Building (25 m. x 78 m.)
Approved Budget for The Contract (ABC)	Twelve Million Eight Hundred Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 33/100 (P12,816,916.33)
Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a current and valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipments (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 22 - March 7, 2006
2. Submission and Opening of Eligibility Requirements	March 10, 2006 Deadline for Submission - 1:30 PM Opening of Eligibility Docs - 1:35 PM
3 Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 13-14, 2006
4 Issuance of Bid Documents	March 22-24, 2006
5. Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006 - 1:30 PM 2nd Floor Conference Room
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 12, 2006 Deadline Dropping of Bids - 1:30 PM Opening of Bids - 1:35 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the 2nd Floor, NFA-Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable and non-transferrable amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) to the NFA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. The may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Checks by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) to the NFA Cashier.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10 reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby including any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
Asst. Regional Director/
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 21 & 27, 2006)

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LGU loyalty checked

OZAMIZ CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S party mates were burning the lines to check on the loyalty of local government leaders just as the President and her Cabinet announced Friday that a plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration had been foiled.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos revealed that as a crisis in the national capital region was developing, the President's aides were calling up local leaders to solicit their personal stand on the unfolding events.

He said he was among those who received such a call from the Lakas-CMD national directorate. He said the Lakas-CMD national directorate seemed to be conducting a head count of officials who are still loyal to Ms Arroyo.

At the height of calls for the President's resignation in July last year, the strong support of local government leaders was among the key factors that made her survive the worst crisis to confront her since she took power from Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Ocampos said, however, that the situation last Friday was different since the local leaders were not gathered in Manila when the coup was being quelled compared to last year when majority of mayors and governors were convening in the national capital region.

An aide of Ozamiz City mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. said a senior Malacañang aide first called the mayor "as a form of loyalty check."

After learning that Parojinog was "still with them" the Malacañang aide asked the mayor to convince fellow mayors to also support the President.

At about 2 p.m. Friday, Parojinog told reporters here that 16 of his mayor-friends have registered continuing loyalty to Ms Arroyo especially as it became apparent that the coup was going to fail.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan said provincial governors and town mayors are "all out to support President Macapagal-Arroyo."

He also said the 24 members of the Regional Legislative Assembly have also signified their unity in supporting Ms Arroyo's presidency.

The governor was in Malacañang when the President proclaimed a state of emergency aimed at quelling destabilization plots.

"We will remain loyal to the Constitution and to the duly-constituted authorities," said ARMM's Solicitor General Cynthia Guiani-Sayaddi.

But Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, in a statement sent to the INQUIRER, said communist rebels would continue their offensives to topple the Arroyo administration.

"I am calling on all Filipino people to defend freedom despite the threats of Proclamation 1017," Madlos said. *Ryan Rosauro, Charlie Señase and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	SOURCE OF FUND	DURATION (CALENDAR DAYS)
Improvement of Public Market, San Jose, Batangas	2006-02-0021	Supply of Labor Materials & Equipment	11,723,973.82	Special Account (Operation of Market)	180

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualifications and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
•	Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 7 & 8, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Upon Receipts of the Letter of Intent (LOI)
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 9, 10 & 13, 2006
4.	Opening of Eligibility Envelope	March 14, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	March 21, 2006
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	March 22, 2006 / 9:00 AM
7.	Receipt of Bids	April 5, 2006 / 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
8	Opening of Bids	April 5, 2006 / 1:00 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas* upon their submission of a LOI. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the address below. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 3,600.00)* to the *(Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas)* Cashier.

The *Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Date of Publication February 21, 2006
Website www.sanjosebats.gov.ph
GEPS

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MANSUETO O. ILAGAN
MGDH-Municipal Engineer
BAC Chairman

Municipal Government of San Jose, Batangas
Attn: VP NITRO-BAC Secretariat
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Order out to cease Sierra Madre logging

LUCENA CITY—ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes ordered environment officials to stop logging in Quezon and the Sierra Madre.

Reyes said he was giving the officials 72 hours to submit a "well validated report" on his order to put a stop to logging.

He also ordered the officials to coordinate with the Task Force Sierra Madre-Infanta (TFSM-I), a non-government organization, on the unlawful cutting of trees in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in Quezon.

He gave the order in the wake of reports by TFSM-I that the illegal cutting of trees in Sierra Madre continues unabated as shown by video footage taken by the group.

The footage showed newly cut trees, mostly hardwood species, in the mountain ranges.

The TFSM-I findings prompted the Quezon provincial board to appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to the rape of Sierra Madre.

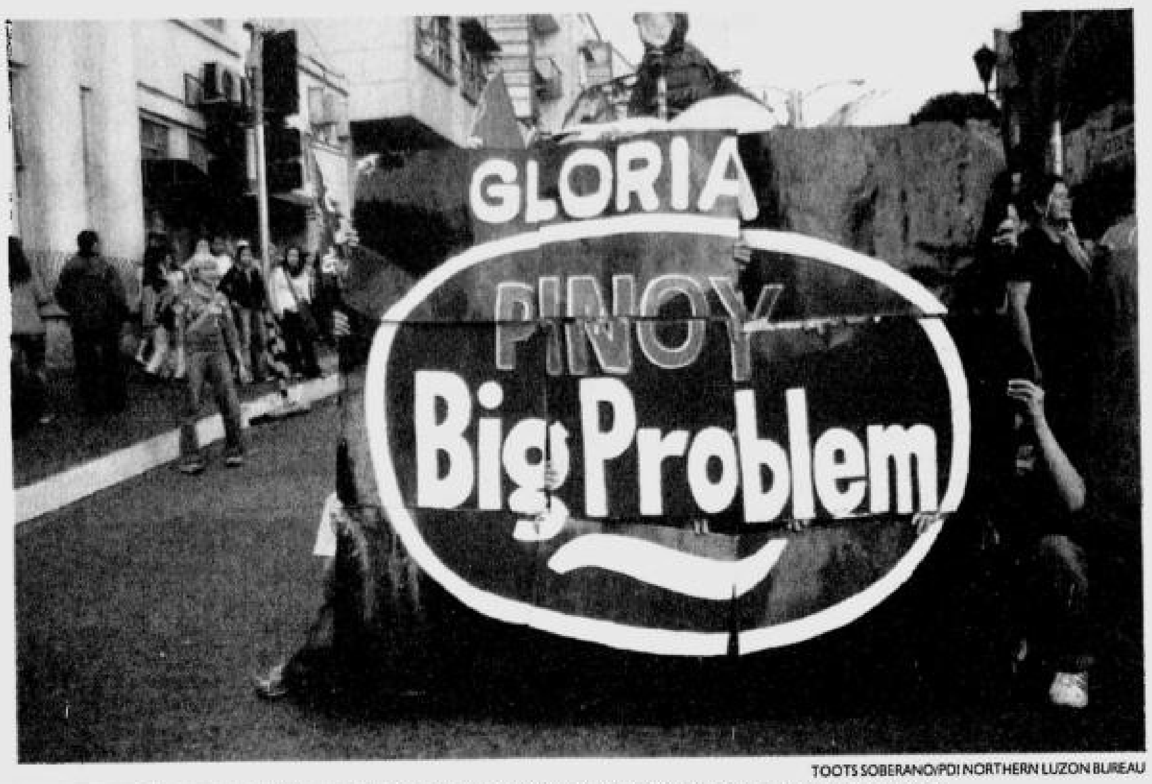
Reyes was apparently unaware that Antonio Principe, DENR regional executive director, accused officials of TFSM-I of being involved in illegal logging activities in the mountain ranges.

Fr. Pete Montallana, TFSM-I chair, said Principe's accusation was absurd and was a form of harassment against the group. The TFSM-I had accused DENR officials of connivance with illegal loggers.

On Wednesday evening, a group of DENR personnel and policemen armed with a search warrant raided the Church's Social Action Center (SAC) warehouse in Barangay Comon, Infanta and confiscated six newly-made fishing boats. The SAC helped document illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

The raiding team also arrested one Joel Abrao, 28, SAC fishery project officer, and charged him with illegal logging, saying the logs used in making the boats were undocumented.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

STREET PROGRAM
Some participants in Baguio City's Flower Festival seize the opportunity to display their feelings about the Arroyo administration on the day a plot to overthrow the administration was foiled.

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This software upgrade is covered by Sony Philippines, Inc.'s standard 1-year Free Warranty. Furthermore, this warranty will be extended to one year after the software upgrade.

If you have purchased the above models and have not received our call, please contact Sony's Customer Contact Center (CCC) at 878-7600 or log-in to www.sony.com.ph now.

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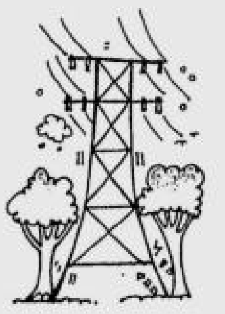
Pilferage eating electric towers



NAGA CITY—STOLEN tower parts of the Transmission Corp. (Transco) are finding their way into auto repair shops.

The pilferage of metal parts was rampant, forcing Transco management to ask help from communities that host its towers to stop the theft.

Nilda Somera, Transco corporate communications officer based here, said the Transco has launched a program called "Bantayos," which mobilizes and gives incentives to barangay units that would help stop the pilferage.

She said under the Bantayos, the Transco provides incentives to LGU officials to monitor, check and report incidents of pilfering.

Somera also said the Transco and village officials entered into a memorandum of agreement and the company allotted P1,000 per tower to the officials per year.

She said aside from these, the Transco also provides livelihood projects in villages where the pilferage of tower parts is rampant.

Authorities last year raided auto repair shops, which yielded stolen angle bars bearing engraved National Power Corp. (NPC) names.

Somera said the tower parts that bore the engraved name of the Napocor were submitted in court as evidence against the thieves.

She cited those who had been charged with pilferage of transmission tower parts were Crispin Mojica, Nolito Januario and Alvin Cielos, owners of auto repair shops in the towns of Libmanan and Pamplona.

The law penalizes violators with imprisonment from 12 years and a day to 20 years, and fine from P50,000 to P100,000.

Somera said although the pilferage of transmission tower parts was not as bad as that in Quezon province where a transmission line crumbled because of the pilferage, the tower parts' pilferage was rampant in the towns of Ragay, Sipocot, Pamplona, Libmanan and Lupi.

She added that if not checked, the pilferage could cause massive outages.

She said the tower parts, made of galvanized iron, had been transformed into jeep bumpers, under chassis and foundations of tricycle sidecars.

Somera said auto repair shop owners favor the use of these materials because they do not rust easily and are stronger. *Juan Escandor Jr., S. L. Bureau*

Doc wins ₱12M suit vs Dutch airline

DAVAO CITY—IT WAS NOT ABOUT MONEY or losing a piece of luggage. For Dr. Jose Tiongco, a neurosurgeon, it was about seeking redress for being humiliated, belittled as a Filipino and not given even a simple apology that he rightly deserved.

The suitcase, he said, can be replaced but not dignity and self-respect.

Judge Jaime Quitain, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 10, recently ordered the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to pay Tiongco P12.6 million in damages.

On Nov. 26, 1998, Tiongco could not find his single hard-case luggage containing his formal attire and documents during a stopover in Frankfurt, Germany. He was heading to Alma Ata, Kazakhstan for the World Health Organization summit, where he was invited to speak.

In Frankfurt, the plane arrived 45 minutes late, causing him to miss a connecting flight to Alma Ata.

He decided to take the Turkish Air for Istanbul. But he discovered his luggage was missing.

"I was so furious," he said when airlines personnel could not provide his item.

"They were so rude and did not even offer an apology," he added.

He arrived and spoke at the WHO summit only in his blue jeans, sweatshirt and jogging shoes.

When he came back to the Philippines, Tiongco decided to file a civil case against KLM.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Noli joins protest against crackdown on media

From page A1

PROCLAMATION 1017 AT WORK: Army soldiers patrol the perimeter of ABS-CBN. The AFP remains on high alert after the President declared a state of emergency on Saturday. AP

as a watchdog for exposing social injustice and abuse of power," De Castro said.

Warning to media

Conde said that the raid on the offices of the Daily Tribune on Saturday "was a warning to media entities that they would be taken over by government if they are not careful."

"This government is trying to destroy our journalistic way of life. It hopes to rattle us so we can't do our job properly and hope that we become more afraid and more fearful to question the President," Conde said.

"This is not so much an issue of an attack on media but an issue of political survival on the part of the President now that her mandate is severely in doubt," Conde said.

Business as usual

It was business as usual at the Daily Tribune office.

Employees said they had been able to go about their work without interference, but admitted that the presence of police teams since early Saturday had been "distracting."

Tex Jimenez, news editor for GMA 7, said news teams were going on with their "usual" coverage and continue to apply "strict" standards to their stories, which included "getting the other side."

Ed Lingao of the ABC-5 news desk said news coverage was "still the same."

ABS-CBN News chief Maria Ressa stressed that there was no effort on the network's part to tone down their coverage. "We continue to be transparent and give the public an accurate picture of what is happening right now."

Ressa, Lingao and Jimenez all said they had not received any orders or any pressure from their respective managements to tone down their coverage.

Karl Wilson of the Agence France-Presse, who is president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, said Focap members would "continue to do their job."

"This is a serious situation that needs to be addressed but in a rational manner. But no way can anyone tell us what we can and cannot write or shoot," Wilson said.

University of the Philippines journalism professor and columnist Luis Teodoro said that while some journalists would be intimidated, "let's do what we have been doing, and write what we have been writing."

Overkill

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot said Proclamation 1017 and General Order No. 5 were "an overkill" and "should be withdrawn immediately so that we can all return to a situation of normality and calm."

He urged all media organizations and journalists "to join together and resist the attempt of the administration to restrict this freedom (of expression) with all our will, with all our determination and with all our strength."

Yambot said he found it "strange that it is the police and the military that are setting the standards for the media."

A day after issuing its warning to the media, the PNP still could not show guidelines for the publication and broadcast of news.

The PNP now wanted to "sit down with media officers" so they could help them come up with rules that will guide the press during the state of national emergency, said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson.

No technical expertise

The police admitted that they did not have the technical skills to direct the operations of a media group, once they had taken over one.

It will still be up to Lomibao, however, to determine whether a news organization had crossed "government standards" and therefore needed to be taken over, said Pagdilao.

The PNP will secure the premises of such a media organization so it "won't be used by people who would take advantage by using it as jump-off board for sedition materials (meant to) inflame the people's passions to go against the government and to bring it down," he said.

Rushing to the defense of a besieged press, senators yesterday criticized Lomibao.

Drilon, Villar, Pangilinan

"He has no business threatening the media. A state of emergency does not include censorship of the media," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Drilon reminded Lomibao and the government that the Bill of Rights was not suspended and remained in effect under the state of national emergency declared by Ms Arroyo.

"It's bad enough that our country is now known as one of the most dangerous places for journalists worldwide with the spate of media killings and here they are creating another notoriety as suppressors of press freedom," administration Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that he, together with Senators Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Pia Cayetano, would file today a resolution to inquire into the factual and legal basis for the proclamation. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora*

PRESIDENT ARROYO, son Dato and daughter-in-law Kakai hear Mass at the Ermita Church on Sunday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Montaño remains defiant

By Luige A. del Puerto

RETIRED POLICE GEN. RAMON Montaño, detained in connection with an alleged plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo, remained defiant yesterday, calling on the people to resist "a regime of evil."

Montaño and Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran were arrested on Saturday, a day after Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency, citing a conspiracy by soldiers, opposition politicians and communist rebels to overthrow her administration.

The 69-year-old Montaño said in a telephone interview military and police officials should "stop being chickens" and "stand up for their rights, to follow the soldiers' code of honor which is to protect the people."

"I call (on) the people to resist this regime of evil," he said, referring to the Arroyo administration.

"We will respect his opinion," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police. He said the courts would determine if Montaño's statements were legal.

Police swooped down on the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite province on Saturday and "invited" Montaño to Camp Crame.

Montaño described the arrest as "illegal and absolutely without basis."

"They want to silence me, a former PC (Philippine Constabulary) chief, because if they could silence me then they can silence anybody. But I won't be silenced," Montaño said.

Montaño spent the night at the Philippine National Police General Hospital after his blood pressure shot up.

It has since stabilized, he said.

Montaño and Beltran were charged with inciting to sedition on Saturday night at the Quezon City fiscal's office.

"The evidence so far gathered (against them) is that they are part of a conspiracy to commit rebellion, so this is the basis for their arrest," Lomibao said on Saturday.

A city prosecutor on duty at the time of the inquest has recommended the two men's release, according to police Senior Supt. Benjamin de los Santos.

But De los Santos said the recommendation still needed to be approved by the chief city prosecutor himself.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday visited Beltran and Montaño.

Guingona said Beltran's arrest was "equivalent to a warrantless arrest."

"The burden of proof should not be on Beltran," Guingona said, referring to reports that the police had wanted Beltran to show proof that an arrest warrant issued against him in 1985 had indeed been dismissed by the court.

The police used the 21-year-old case of inciting to rebellion to arrest Beltran.

Militants gather at UP

By DJ Yap and Margaux C. Ortiz

HE CALLED, THEY ANSWERED.

Away from all the action at Fort Bonifacio, hundreds of militants began gathering on the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, to express sympathy for Marine Col. Ariel Querubin.

At 8:30 p.m., members of the Laban ng Masa assembled at the foot of Quezon Hall in front of the Oblation statue in response to Querubin's call for support. About 500 demonstrators lit candles and planned their next course of action.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said his group was still gathering forces and was deciding whether to join the crowd in Makati.

UP Sociology Prof. Randy David, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Mayong Aguja and Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo were among those at the candle-lit demonstration.

A few kilometers from the military camp, around 300 members of different militant groups gathered last night at a Makati City park in a continuing attempt to defy Ms Arroyo's "emergency rule."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said that at 8 p.m., his group decided to issue a call for vigils, noise barrages and gatherings all over the country in support of the country's patriotic soldiers and in defiance of Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

After meeting at the corner of Buendia and Ayala Avenues, the militants decided to march toward Pasong Tamo Extension and join their comrades in Fort Bonifacio in support of relieved Marine commandant Gen. Renato Miranda.

Cory barred entry to Marine camp

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President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With Aquino were her children, members of the so-called Hyatt 10 and former Sen. Loren Legarda.

They were in a convoy of vehicles when they were stopped by a police barricade one kilometer from the Marine base, forcing them to walk in the practically empty and dark streets.

The only bright lights inside the camp were at the Marine headquarters that teemed with the protesting soldiers.

Some people brought food

The camp was quiet except for the sound of footsteps of people walking toward the Marine headquarters, vehicles that made their way past security barricades and the drone of helicopters flying overhead.

A barricade of policemen in blue camouflage uniforms blocked the entry of vehicles at the camp's Gate 3, forcing people living inside the camp to walk.

Some men alighted from their cars to negotiate entry into Gate 3 but backed off at the sight of policemen carrying shields and automatic rifles.

Small groups of people were carrying plastic bags of food.

At the end of Pasong Tamo Extension, where Gate 3 of the camp lies, residents of civilian communities were walking outside their houses.

Worried residents

At a community deeper in the camp, residents with puzzled and worried looks on their faces milled around groups of soldiers and policemen carrying assault rifles.

Electricity at a slum area in the camp's outskirts was cut off, the darkness forcing residents of clapboard houses out into a street that was filled with soldiers carrying Armalite rifles.

At another end of the camp, near Forbes Park, Marines stood guard and set up their own barricades made of concrete blocks and a wrecker.

The Marines allowed vehicles entry after inspection. A Marine barracks just across the barricade was in darkness. People made their way into the camp on foot, or packed in tricycles or cabs that were allowed entry by the Marine guards.

SUVs were seen entering Bonifacio Heights, an upscale residential community just a kilometer away from the Marine headquarters.

Taekwondo gives howling . . .

From page A1

mothers, all of whom are 70 or older, practicing the high-kicking and hard-punching martial art of taekwondo at a gymnasium in Inchon, about an hour west of Seoul.

The traditional Korean martial art is widely taught in South Korean schools and most young men in the country learn taekwondo as part of compulsory military service.

But for these grandmothers, taekwondo is a way to keep themselves happy and healthy.

Smashing

"Smashing! I really like smashing the slabs. It releases my stress that I get from home," said Ji, who has been practicing the martial art for nine years.

Ji, who has five grandchildren, is a black-belt holder and leads the class.

Almost half of the grandmothers have reached the highest-level ranking of holding black belts.

While most taekwondo athletes aspire to smash wooden or ceramic tiles with their feet, hands or head, the grandmothers mostly break plastic tiles with prefabricated fissures.

There is no granny-on-granny fighting during practices but several of the septuagenarians said they were ready to fend off an attacker.

Howling like Bruce Lee

While practicing her high kicks, 74-year-old Cho Jong-jae howls like kung-fu legend Bruce Lee, and the other grandmothers break into laughter.

"I haven't been sick once since I started coming here three years ago. I'm here because it's fun. If it wasn't, I wouldn't want to do it," says Cho, who has a red belt.

Yet 77-year-old Kim Hee-bok, who is the oldest of the group, focuses more on slower movements and stretches. Before she began learning the sport, she had trouble simply moving.

She had been suffering from diabetes and arthritis for years.

"I couldn't even walk up five flights of stairs before.

Now, I can go up more than 50-60 stairs," she says.

She heard about the lessons from her fellow classmates and asked her son and daughter to walk her to class every day until she was finally able to walk on her own.

"Coming here is much better than going to the hospital. Even my doctor says to attend the class every day."

Master Yoon Yeo-ho has been teaching senior citizens for 15 years and constantly experiments with ways to make taekwondo more granny-friendly.

"I have been teaching taekwondo to senior citizens and they said it has helped with arthritis, diabetes and being overweight," he said.

Some doctors said the martial art can help older people stay healthy, as long as they avoid being on the receiving end of a kick to the head.

"Taekwondo is a combination of cardiovascular exercises, muscle training and it also helps flexibility. It is good for heart-related diseases, releasing stress and preventing one from feeling old," says Dr. Yoo Tai-woo of Seoul National University's department of family medicine.

"But adjustments are required when breaking blocks and kicks," Yoo cautioned for seniors with brittle bones.

Sweat, kicks

Although teacher Yoon is happy to see the senior citizens enjoying themselves, he says it is not always easy teaching them the moves.

"They would forget what I taught them after one hour later or a day later," Yoon said.

Yoon heads the Korea Grandma T.K.D Federation, which focuses on teaching grandmas the sport and hosts taekwondo contests for them. Several of the grandmothers in Yoon's class received awards, which stand on bookshelves in the back of the studio.

The sport's official association in South Korea is thrilled about the grandmas' enthusiasm for taekwondo, which became an official sport at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and hope to get them involved in national competitions.

Wet with sweat

"We support them because they are breaking the stereotype that taekwondo is a difficult sport," said Kim Moon-cheon, a training manager of the Korea Taekwondo Association Competition.

Yoon goes through one last routine of the two-hour session.

"We're doing well!" a grandmother shouts after they complete a final punch.

The class comes toward an end with stretches coordinated to a local tune that was first popular when they were young.

"Feel my back. It is wet with sweat," one grandmother said, grabbing her fellow classmate's hand. *Reuters*

1017: Press main target

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE released this photo of Director General Arturo Lomibao's visit to the headquarters of the Special Action Force where he heard Mass and received communion.

PNP-PIO PHOTO

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constituted government elected in May 2004 and raided the offices of the Tribune newspaper critical of the administration. Those arrested were former PNP chief Ramon Montaño and Rep. Crispin Beltran, a leftist congressman representing the Anakpawis party-list group.

The police actions left little doubt that the press has become a main target of the crackdown and the raids signaled a direct assault on the freedom of the press guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the Constitution.

The raids have created apprehension in the media over what media organizations would be raided next, but the proclamation and general orders issued by the President to the national police to implement the proclamation have clearly indicated that press freedom has not been effectively curtailed in a degree not seen since President Ferdinand Marcos shut down newspapers and media networks in a total clampdown of the press following the declaration of martial law in September 1972.

The media should not have any illusion that Proclamation No. 1017 has effectively ended freedom of the press as they have known it.

Although the Marcos clampdown on media was total and sweeping, the Arroyo crackdown, which is being done incrementally, piecemeal and selectively, is no less a fatal body blow to press freedom, the first freedom to go under when a dictatorship is established. With the proclamation, Philippine democracy has lost one of its key underpinnings of political liberty.

More than the politicians and the members of the extreme Right and the extreme Left, the first victim of the crackdown is the media, accused by the administration of allegedly fueling political conspiracies aimed at overthrowing the government.

President Arroyo issued the proclamation in response to what it claimed was a systematic conspiracy of a tactical alliance of opposition politicians, military groups involved in coup plots and of communist rebels to overthrow the government. The thwarting of the plot triggered the proclamation.

The proclamation followed claims by the government that it had uncovered and aborted a plot to topple the government. The foiling of the plot led to the arrest last week of two senior officers—Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin, brigade commander in Lanao del Sur.

The government claimed that Lim had planned to announce withdrawal of support of his unit for the government, that he had tried to persuade other military leaders to support the withdrawal, and that the withdrawal would have been the signal for the rebellious military units to join a general uprising together with civilian groups that had been demanding ouster of the Arroyo regime.

In announcing the thwarting of the plot, President Arroyo said, some officers had "tried to break out of the Armed Forces chain of command ... and establish a regime outside of the Constitution." The involvement of the press in the conspiracy, according to the President, is that the claims of "these elements" of the conspiracy as a tactical alliance of the "historical enemies of the democratic Philippine state" have been "recklessly" magnified by certain segments of the media.

To counter this conspiracy, the President invoked constitutional emergency powers that authorize her to call out the Armed Forces "to prevent and suppress rebellion" and authorize her to "temporarily take over or direct operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interests."

The President ordered the Armed Forces "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion, and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The proclamation gave a blanket authority to the military and national police in the implementation of the proclamation and in compliance of all presidential decrees and orders.

It is on the basis of these instructions that the Philippine National Police carried out the crackdown of the press. General Order No. 5 issued by the President last Friday gave the police and the military powers to carry out "necessary and appropriate actions and measures to suppress and prevent acts of terrorism."

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao warned on Saturday the PNP would take over any media organization that would not follow "standards set by the government" during the national emergency. The setting up of standards defined by government in effect establishes censorship.

Lomibao said a government team would examine the editorial contents of newspapers and the news or views aired by broadcast stations to see if these conform to these standards. He said "we will recommend (action) based on our evaluation." He said, "If they (the news groups) do not follow the standards—and standards are if they would contribute to instability in the government, (or) if they do not subscribe to what is in General Order No. 5 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017—we will recommend (a takeover)".

Violations of standards will be "left to the judgment of the PNP and other agencies that are empowered to implement the order. "Appropriate actions" refer to "actions which are hurting the Philippine state by obstructing government, including hindering the growth of the economy and sabotaging the people's confidence in government, and their faith in the future of this country."

Press Secetary Ignacio Bunye has said the government would issue guidelines on stories that "contribute to the exacerbation of the national emergency. So far the guidelines have not been issued, but these would clearly amount to censorship. It was not clear yesterday whether the Tribune would be taken over by the government or whether its editors would be arrested. The presidential chief of staff, Michael Defensor, issued a yet another chilly warning to the media about the risks they faced in publishing stories that might be deemed inflammatory by the government. He said the raid on the Tribune offices was meant to show a "strong presence, to tell media outlets not to connive or do anything that would help the rebels in bringing down government."

The general order and these statements point to the takeover by government of a broad range of discretionary powers in deciding whether to take over media outlets, arresting journalists and stories are offensive to the State. Defensor said, while the government did not want to stifle press freedom, "This is an abnormal situation ... there is a possibility of an armed takeover of the government. A government has a right to protect itself."

The proclamation has forced the press to define how it would operate within these restraints in the exercise of freedom of the press on behalf of the people.

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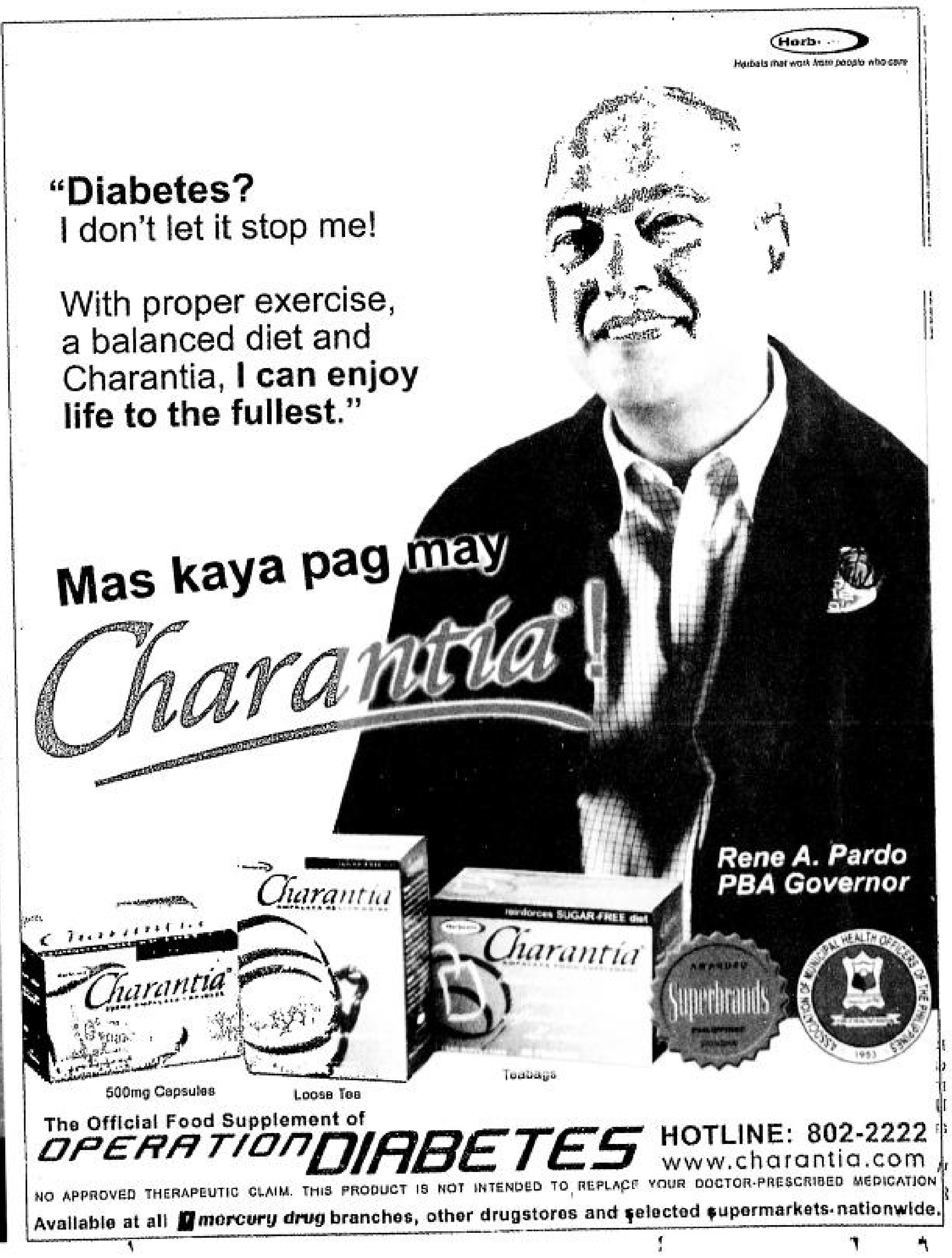

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THE PEOPLE

The smell of freedom

"MY COUSIN ASKED ME, 'CAN YOU smell that?'

"Smell, what," I answered.

"Burning rubber, that's the smell of freedom.

"We looked at each other and started laughing. I started getting goose bumps, the sort of thing you feel when you get overly dramatic and start saying corny things like that. But deep down inside, you actually believe it." **-Norbert Marchadesch**

I couldn't go home

"There was a rumor that Marcos soldiers would attack. There was a report that Ramos was distributing guns to willing civilians. I could not go home. How will I look tomorrow in front of my officemates?" **-Sofronio Dulay, office worker**

Biggest party ever

"We can bring the food at Edsa and share it with the people there and still we can be part of the People Power. You will have the biggest party ever. You will remember this when you grow up." **-Dr. Vivencio Santos to his son Jose Guido on his 9th birthday**

Shining and glorious

"Irrefutably, Edsa 1 was a shining and glorious moment in our nation's history." **-Christopher L. Carrion, founding chair, Spirit of Edsa Foundation**

Grade two

"I was in grade two then, full of hope and dreams, unwary of what life really had to offer. With the few pesos I got from the coin bins in our cars, I was able to buy some crackers from the corner store. Then I got powdered juice from the kitchen cabinet. I also used the popular *karaoke* of the '80s with microphone and we had a party." **-Evan Glenn S. Vista, M.D.**

How happy we were!

"There were tanks on the Delta rotunda coming in our direction, but they turned back when they saw hundreds of people on Quezon Avenue. Another tank tried to come in through West Avenue to Edsa. We carried candles. The married women with us carried their children with them. The girls with us carried flowers which they gave to the soldiers. They turned back. How happy we were!" **-Rev. Ciriaco Ganchorre, National City United Church**

People have spoken

"Marcos is doomed. There is no way he can disperse this crowd now. It's only a matter of time. The people have spoken and won." **-Leslie Abelardo, retired insurance executive**

High-fives

"The tension finally vaporized one night. Everybody in Jaro, and elsewhere I suppose, was out on the streets. Cars blowing their horns, people giving high-fives to everybody. It was better than any celebration or street gathering I have been to all my life. Everybody just seems to know everybody else. They were my brothers and sisters. There are no words to describe it." **-Gabriel Marcelo Torre, a former seminarian**

Balut vendor

"What deeply touched me was the sight of a *balut* vendor voluntarily giving the basketful of balut he was selling. I was so touched that I felt tears rolling down my eyes. Yes, I cried silently." **-Antonio P. Lucero**

I was there

"The entire avenue was full to the brim with people. It was a breathtaking view. A sea of humanity participating in what would be known as the first People Power revolution in the world. And I was there, in the midst of it." **-Nicolo del Castillo**

Barbed-wire souvenirs

"At around 8:30 p.m., I found myself in Mendiola with thousands of demonstrators. Barbed wires blocked our path. People were chanting anti-Marcos slogans. There were singing of nationalistic songs. Some, using their bare hands, cut the barbed wire as a souvenir. I did the same and got a share of my souvenir." **-Jun Sambalilo**

Call for vigil

"I was part of a small group of underground militia then, named Samahan ng mga Mandirigma sa Kalunsuran, or SMK ... Our legal front was one of the first to heed the call for vigil at Edsa." **-Alexander A. Orlino**

We are all Filipinos

"As the Marines approached our position, I screamed, 'We are all Filipinos, we love you.' It became a battle cry. I was given a bullhorn and I led the people in chanting this." **-Roberto Abellar Sarreal**

All in my jeep

"When my younger brother, then a junior Constabulary officer came home and told us to go to Edsa, I did not ask him why. I put my family—my mother and father, now both dead, brothers, sisters, sons, nephews and neighbors in my jeep and sped away to Edsa." **-Joel J. Santo Domingo**

What a sight!

"We were in Quezon Avenue when we were told to use my car to block the street because tanks sent by Marcos were coming. There were many nuns there and soon were all praying the rosary. Soon we were confronted with young Marines. From the looks of the soldiers, I knew they were at a loss, for they did not know who the enemies were. I shed tears when one by one, the soldiers brought their armalites down and started to receive rosaries, flowers and sandwiches from us. What a sight!" **-Atty. Estrella O. Laysa**

Ice cream treat

"I was a college student in Zamboanga. We had a tailoring shop next to which was an ice cream factory run by a Chinese, Mr. Tan. He said that if Marcos was ousted, he would treat everyone with ice cream. That night, he kept his promise." **-Gerky Valesco**

Jugs of water

"From Day 1 to Day 4, people whose houses we passed by would prepare jugs of water and fruit juices and sandwiches and give them to the marchers." **-Rudy Cacdac**

People danced

"When news came that Marcos was gone, people danced, sang and shouted at the top of their voices." **-Dodo Marante**

I was 13

"I was 13 when Edsa 1 happened. As far as I can remember, the atmosphere on those glorious, triumphant days can't be described by a single word. During those days, we were all busy making sandwiches, cooking rice and adobo. We didn't have any idea that this event would turn into an unforgettable history of the Philippines." **-Analen M. Pelagio**

I cried and prayed

"My husband and I were tuned in to Radio Veritas the night Cardinal Sin called on the people to protect the soldiers inside Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo. I can't explain why, but I cried and cried and prayed the Holy Rosary continuously. I guess, while we lived in the province at the time (Cagayan de Oro City), we were conscious of and felt the happenings in Manila." **-Judith T. Seguerra**

2 years old at Edsa

"I was only two years old when Edsa ended the Marcos dictatorship. I regretfully have no memories of it although pictures of me and my brother amidst the mass of people are proof that I was there. So I am content with the stories my parents tell when their memories are awakened by the sight of these faded, moldy photos. For those of us born too late, second-hand memories will have to suffice." **-Piya Cruz Constantino**

No 'zarzuela'

"The first press conference of Juan Ponce Enrile sent shivers up my spine. This was the first time someone went against Ferdinand Marcos. It was hard to tell if what was unfolding before us was true or just a "zarzuela" of the Marcoses. But when ruggedly clothed men unloaded sacks and sacks of high-powered firearms from unmarked cars and vans, I realized it was for real." **- Joe Galvez, photojournalist**

Ready to shed blood

"On the second night, we heeded the call of a self-proclaimed "commander" to secure Camp Crame's gate on Santolan Road. We were briefly "trained"—"rehearsed" is probably the better word—how to lie down on the ground to deter any advancing tanks and taught how to soak "Good Morning" towels with cold water to protect ourselves against tear-gas. That was the most nerve-wracking, heart-pumping and probably the silliest situation I had gotten myself into during the entire revolution. I was determined to shed my own blood if necessary. Goodness, there was no need." **- Gerry DC. del Rosario**

Freddie Aguilar

"One of the most dreadful incidents the first night we camped at Edsa was the tear-gassing of people manning the barricades at Libis and Santolan. The next evening, using a PC-INP six-by-six truck as a stage, Freddie Aguilar treated us to an impromptu concert. He had just started his third song when word came that tanks were on their way to Crame. People were simply dismayed, but at times like those one had to expect the unexpected." **-Saturnino S. Nanolan, research consultant**

Muslims were there, too

From page A1

nic backgrounds and beliefs to band together to reclaim their posterity.

The day after the desperate appeal of then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, then Gen. Fidel V. Ramos and the late Jaime Cardinal Sin for public support against an imminent attack by government military forces, our group from Maharlika Village in Taguig joined the large throng that had gathered between Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame.

Several men led by Col. Mariano Santiago approached us. They were recruiting warm bodies to man the barricades being organized for all the gates of the two camps. For no other reason than being the oldest and perhaps the most suicidal-looking in our group, I was designated to organize Company "D" which would be positioned at Gate 2 of Camp Aguinaldo from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

More than a hundred men and women from Maharlika, the Quiapo Mosque and the Tandang Sora Muslim communities responded to our call. We turned down the women and warned the 85 men of Company D that not all of us could expect to return alive. Per the instructions of Colonel Santiago, there were to be no weapons of any kind.

Since our buses could not go beyond Shaw Boulevard, we marched double file behind our standard, a yellow crescent and star on a field of green. Buses blocked the road and many tires were on fire at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue. The sight was as surrealistic as it was threatening and reminiscent of a Mad Max movie.

Muslim flag unfurled

The people we passed along the way cheered and applauded loudly. Some shouted, "The Muslims are here! The Muslims are here!" That flag has not been unfurled and flown since the end of Edsa I.

When we reached Gate 2, a group called "Confess" had already taken position. We divided the entrance into two and positioned ourselves on the right side. Defiance and uncertainty mingled in our minds. Nobody knew if we would make it to the next day.

During our vigil a guitar materialized, and many of us stayed awake, singing southern tribal songs and trying to whip our adrenalin into war frenzy against sleep and the unknown fate that awaited us.

Throughout those nights, there was an incessant supply of food. Recrimination occasionally broke out between people insisting to pay and vendors adamantly refusing payment. Who would have thought we would see days like those—mine eyes have truly seen the glory!

Sometime close to midnight, a truck arrived and distributed pizza boxes to our twin barricades. Our self-appointed and alert "Quality Control" brethren stopped the distribution when they saw there was pork in it. Those who already received their boxes gave them to the members of Confess.

But miracles do happen and out of nowhere, another truck arrived bringing fried chicken. The driver shouted, "For the Muslims only!" It was in that one moment we felt that we were truly a part of this Republic's momentous transition; that night "For Muslims only" meant food and not bullets.

Late on the third night, a person identifying himself as "Magsaysay" asked me and the leader of the Confess group to enter Camp Crame with him. We were led to a dimly lit room to join other barricade "commanders" who were gathered around a table where then Col. Ismael Villareal gave us a situationer and instructions on courses of action.

Unknown to us, my wife and some women from Maharlika managed to reach Santolan Road behind Camp Aguinaldo just outside Blue Ridge subdivision and joined a human *'kapit-bisig'* barricade directly blocking the way of the armored column of General Tadiar. She later recounted how the loyalist soldiers' fixed bayonets on their rifles, covered their faces with bandanas and started assaulting the barricade's first line with rifle butts.

Many people at the barricade, struck by rifle butts, fell to the ground. My wife said that the stark reality of their impending death never daunted their determination nor broke the *kapit-bisig* lines. It was only after the soldiers retreated that her knees began shaking uncontrollably. One of her companions literally wet her pants.

For their gallantry we have included our women folk as full members of Company "D" bringing our total number to 134.

Many of the brethren with us those three days have since passed away, others as noncombatant victims of "Muslim Policy" and a few as combatants. Meanwhile, those of us who are still alive today have grown 20 years older and are still waiting for our new day to begin.

THE MEDIA

The tears fell 20 years later

From page A1

matic events for my agency, the New York-based United Press International.

It did occur to me that we—myself and the hacks who had camped out there—were being used as human shields.

I thought that if all hell broke loose and I did a good job, I would land a Pulitzer.

It's something that's crossed my mind since I read John Hohenberg's "Foreign Correspondents." Or was it Evelyn Waugh's "Scoop"? That sent me knocking at the door of UPI in Manila, then its Asian headquarters, ages ago.

UPI at that time was one of the world's top two news agencies. The other was the Associated Press, a cooperative of US newspapers.

We were smaller, leaner and meaner. The thought pumped the adrenalin.

Our people in the field were always outnumbered by the opposition, but rarely outreported.

We knew. Every day, New York sent foreign logs for ams and pms—a scorecard showing how many of the major morning and evening newspapers in the US, our main market, used UPI or AP on any given story overseas.

We lived or died reading those logs. We got "rockets" if we goofed, or "herograms" if we zapped 'em.

For us working in the wires, or news agencies, it was "deadline every minute" because of the different time zones and demands of our clients—newspapers, radio and television—in different countries. The one-minute beat was always something to aspire for on a breaking story.

Imagine you are a newspaper editor. You have a bank of four teletype machines spewing out copy nonstop from UPI and AP, along with the British news agency Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

At crunch time, on a major breaking event, you will use only the first story on the wire, or the one that is better written, or has a lot more sight, smell, sound.

Nothing less than total commitment was required.

Even while taking a shower, I was listening to an all news radio station, shutting off everything else. Funny, but the only songs I can hum are the sounds of the '60s—the music of my youth.

A Filipino working for an international agency—especially for a chief of bureau like me—in his own country can't go overboard on a story if he is to compete with those gweilos, Chinese for foreigners.

You have to be ultra objective, even if the story hits you in the gut.

I also found that being a native could be a heavy baggage in this business here, especially during the martial law days, for a host of reasons.

At the end of the Agrava Commission hearings on the 1983 Benigno Aquino assassination, everyone was waiting for its findings.

The first report to come out was from the legal team, prepared by the commission's chief counsel, Andres Narvasa, a man I had deeply admired as Clarence Darrow personified.

He went to the Manila Hotel, where the foreign correspondents hang out, and gave it to some of them, I was later told.

The next day, I got a "rocket" from New York.

Accompanied by Gabby Tabunar of CBS, I went to his house to see if I could get a copy. He barked at me: "What gave you the right to demand for a copy of my report?"

I said I covered the hearings every single day. If there's anyone who deserved to have it, it was I, not the parachute types working up a hangover at a hotel bar.

We left empty-handed.

Also hobbling was the thought that I could be thrown in jail, while the other guys could only be PNGed—declared persona non grata—and expelled.

When we reported that soldiers had shot Ninoy Aquino, the Palace information office was on the phone to me immediately, threatening to file criminal libel, close down our bureau and cancel subscriptions of our Manila clients.

I normally did not think about these things when I covered stories. But, they were there at the back of my mind.

They didn't stop me from winning a Catholic press award in Manila. This was when the church was coaxing a pliant Philippine press to come out of its shell.

For the Aquino assassination, I and two colleagues got a citation of excellence from the Washington-based Overseas Press Club of America and a UPI nomination to the Pulitzer.

I was one of the last foreign correspondents to talk to an obviously ailing Marcos. In a rambling, two-hour interview, he told me he was tasked by God to reform this nation of "indifferent souls resigned to desperate hopelessness."

Edsa I was a story I had waited for.

I had passed up chances to go on an Edward Murrow fellowship to the Center for Strategic Studies in New York and a sabbatical at Michigan University.

I wanted to be part of Philippine history, to be able to write its first draft.

When Edsa I broke out, I was in Cebu covering Cory's disobedience campaign. I badgered PAL to get me on board its last flight to Manila, expecting that airports across the country could be closed down.

I went straight to Camp Aguinaldo, joined the bunch of journalists running around like headless chickens, waiting for bombs to fall.

What I had witnessed, and wrote, was now a blur, but I was there on every one of those dramatic moments, steeling myself to be insensitive.

My news instincts remained even while I was already out of UPI.

Moments after 9/11 occurred, I walked into the UN office in Skopje in Macedonia, engulfed in a civil war at the time. I was led to the TV room, where American colleagues were crying.

When I watched what had happened, my initial reaction was to write "leads" in my mind.

That Edsa I turned the way it did was indeed a miracle. And we were all lucky.

As a reporter and later a UN staff, I saw devastation caused by wars, civil strife and ethnic conflicts in the Balkans, in Asia, in Africa from south of the Sahara to Angola.

Many times working alone with only a driver beside me, I evacuated villages under siege in the snow-covered mountains of Kosovo and helped send humanitarian aid to Iraqi and Afghan refugees.

Conflicts are cruel no matter what they are called.

And I thought I've seen it all, done that—over there and over here—and didn't shed a tear—until I started reading all those vignettes our readers sent to mark the 20th anniversary of one of our greatest triumphs as a nation.

They tug at the heart.

Marine standoff at Fort Bonifacio is over

From page A1

The crowds that had gathered at the north and south gates of Fort Bonifacio also dispersed.

Querubin's protest coincided with unconfirmed reports that Marine and other elite units, like the First Scout Rangers Regiment and the police Special Action Force, might declare their withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo anytime soon.

Military spokespersons denied there was a split in the military ranks and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' loyalty to the Constitution and the government.

"We're doing this to support our beleaguered commandant," Querubin said earlier in the afternoon. "I'll wait for the people to come here to protect us, to protect us from aggression. I expect that to happen," he said at the chapel of his unit's headquarters at about 5 p.m.

Querubin later appealed for support from the religious, particularly the bishops. "I hope the bishops will not forsake us," he said.

Heeding Querubin's call for support, former President Corazon Aquino said last night that she was prepared to go inside the camp with members of her family.

But at 9:05 p.m., Aquino, who was on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati, near the camp, said there were specific instructions to the police "not to allow me to go inside" the camp.

She said the instructions came from Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Iñigo Zobel also went to the Marine headquarters to talk to Querubin, saying that the colonel was his *"kumpare."* Zobel is the son of the late businessman Enrique Zobel.

Seen at the camp were Senators Rodolfo Biazon, a former Marine commander, and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and other politicians.

A group of Franciscan sisters and other religious people huddled, some sitting on the ground, in front of Gate 3 of the military camp in Makati City to pray.

A phalanx of police personnel was standing in front of the nuns trying to move them from their position but they were not yielding an inch.

Also among those who turned up were Liwayway Vinzons-Chato of the Movement for Truth and Justice, Hernan Tiu-Laurel of the Oust Gloria Coalition, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos and actress Melissa Mendez.

"We're here to show support for the Marines," Chato said.

Not true

Querubin, in full uniform, said it was not true that Miranda had volunteered to step down as head of the Marines but that he was relieved.

Col. Tristan Kison, the military spokesperson, said Miranda was replaced for "personal reasons."

Miranda went to see his immediate superior, Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, and asked to be relieved of his command, Kison said.

Miranda is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, which includes Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

THREE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS back up the protesting troops inside the Marine compound.

RYAN LIM

FOLLOWING THE LEADER, Marines line up inside their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio signifying their support for Col. Ariel Querubin. The bemedalled officer, who was sacked for his alleged role in the attempted coup last Friday, was protesting the relief of his commandant, "who was like a father to me." AFP

Like a father

Querubin said he did not want Miranda, whom he described as being "like a father," to take the fall for him.

The 7,000-strong Marine Corps was dragged into the alleged plan by some troops to withdraw support from the President after Querubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of an Army Scout Ranger regiment based in Bulacan, fell under suspicion and were relieved of their commands on Friday. Also relieved was police Special Action Force commander Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that Lim and Querubin had gone to see Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, on Thursday to warn him "that restive young officers and soldiers planned to join rallies" planned by opposition forces on Feb. 24.

The aim was to "provide critical mass and the armed component to the protests."

Medal of Valor

Both officers were sacked after they told their superior that "they might not be able to dissuade the troops from their plan, and there were indications that the two may also join them," Bunye said in a statement.

The President declared a state of emergency on Friday over the alleged coup plot.

Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee and commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Marawi City until he was relieved, admitted for the first time that he and his men had planned to join the rallies at Edsa organized by various anti-Arroyo groups on Friday.

"We told (Miranda) we were going to march to Edsa without arms around 10 or 11 a.m. (last Friday). We were prevailed upon by our commandant. We followed the chain of command," he said.

Defensive position

He said that "majority of the Marines" would have joined him in that protest march.

"What will they charge us with. Is it coup d'etat if you march without arms?" he said on ANC.

After speaking to reporters, Querubin walked to the Marine headquarters about 500 meters away where he said he would "take a defensive position."

Querubin was accompanied by some 50 civilians who formed a human chain around him.

The majority

Allaga arrived later and said he had come to take Querubin into custody. But Querubin had refused to go with Allaga.

Later, inside the Marine commander's lounge, Querubin said it was not true that he had been taken into custody, and added that he was, in fact, trying to convince Allaga to join them in protesting the relief of Miranda.

Security was beefed up at Marine headquarters with three heavily armed Marine companies and three armored personnel carriers (APCs) standing guard in front of the headquarters building.

Querubin said the three companies all supported him. Asked how many Marine officers were behind him, he said "the majority."

RAM T-shirts

The civilians surrounding Querubin wore T-shirts bearing the logo of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

As media men hounded Querubin in front of the Marine headquarters, members of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino prayed the rosary.

At around 6:30 p.m., a phalanx of policemen wielding shields tried to form in front of the gate, but they were prevailed upon to leave by the Marines.

At around 6:45 p.m., Hernan Tiu-Laurel led the crowd in singing "Lupang Hinirang" and "Bayan Ko" for the Marines.

"We're here to support the Marines now that their eyes have been opened. They are on our side," actress Mendez said.

Others watching developments behind the barbed wire in front of the Marine headquarters were members of women's groups under Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Unite

Speaking to three Marine companies in front of the headquarters building, Querubin called on the men to unite.

"After this, if we are united, we will not disintegrate. This is the time to unite and let us protect the people."

At around 8 p.m., about 150 heavily armed Marines were standing guard outside the Marine headquarters building. They were carrying high-powered firearms of different calibers.

Backed by 3 APCs

The Marines, backed by three armored personnel carriers, looked tense and appeared to be confused by the events unfolding before them.

About 100 civilians milled around the headquarters building. The other civilians who had come were lawyers Argee Guevara and JV Bautista and movie director Carlitos Siguion-Reyna.

Former Telecommunication Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco joined a group praying in front of the Marines HQ gate. "We're showing support for what is righteous," she said.

Resign

In the absence of reforms and in view of the griping in the military, the President should resign, Magsaysay said.

"The bureaucrats should resign because they're unfit. They're mismanaging the economy and bureaucracy," he said. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

Palace lets AFP . . .

From page A1

Scout Rangers that will be joining some elements of the Philippine Marines that will make trouble last Friday and that was why there was a decision to declare a state of emergency," he said.

"The situation is under control but it still needs to be handled with care because the situation can worsen or result in bloodshed," he said before the Marines returned to barracks.

Defensor said Querubin, who called for support from the people yesterday, "is saying things out of hand."

"I hope he thinks about the country," Defensor said.

The Palace issued a statement saying that Querubin would be taken into custody. It also said there were no troop movements.

"All other statements to the contrary are disinformation being circulated by JV Ejercito," the statement said, referring to the San Juan mayor and son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Senga denies defection

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga also appealed to politicians at the camp and others not to exploit the situation and to allow the military to resolve the standoff peacefully.

He dismissed as "unfounded" rumors that he had switched sides and was now supporting those in the military who wanted to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

"We can resolve this within the AFP, within the Marines. Let's hope other people will not exploit this," he said.

Justifies 1017

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Marine incident only justified the President's decision to declare an emergency.

"What is happening now is a continuation of what should have been done last Friday," Bunye said in a news conference.

"It gives strong ground for Proclamation 1017," Bunye said.

Bunye said the President's economic team had recommended the lifting of the emergency declaration, but because of "intervening events" the proposal would have to be reassessed.

Neda chief Romulo Neri said the team had thought the markets would react well starting today. Had it not been for yesterday's incident, it could have been possible for the proclamation order to have been lifted today.

"It's now up in the air," Trade Secretary Peter Favila said.

Querubin among the 'dead' in 1989 rebel assault on Camp Aguinaldo

By Fe B. Zamora

EVERY TIME COUP RUMORS SWEEP the military camps, President Macapagal-Arroyo would host a dinner with the "usual suspects" as guests. One of them was Col. Ariel Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee and one of the Armed Forces' most respected officers.

In one of the dinners, the officers would candidly tell Ms Arroyo about the sentiments of the soldiers, Querubin told the INQUIRER last month.

He said one of the issues raised was the "Hello Garci" tapes and how the soldiers have been clamoring for an explanation on the alleged involvement of the President in electoral fraud, as mentioned in the wiretapped conversations between President Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"She looked to the ceiling, she looked to the floor, and she said ah... ah... um ..," Querubin told the INQUIRER. "The President did not give us an assurance that she would look into the issue," he said.

Querubin, who was detained for leading a rebel attack on Camp Aguinaldo during the 1989 coup attempt, said that the military would not move against Ms Arroyo without a "credible and acceptable" alternative.

"Once there's a clear alternative, the soldiers will move even without a leader," Querubin said in that interview.

QUERUBIN: The soldiers clamored for an explanation of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

PDI PHOTO

But last Friday, Querubin apparently had changed his mind. With Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR), Querubin went to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to inform him of their plan to join the people's march at Edsa on Saturday.

Lim and Querubin, however, were held in custody by their respective superiors and investigated for possible violations of the Articles of War.

Lim, a 1978 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, and Querubin, a 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), were both involved in the 1989 coup, the most serious attempt to oust a President.

Lim led the mutinous Scout Rangers that overran the Makati commercial district, while Querubin led the rebel Marines that attacked Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo, site of the bloodiest battle during the weeklong coup that nearly toppled President Corazon Aquino.

Querubin, then a captain, was among the dead at the Quirino Hospital in Quezon City. But a woman doctor, examining the bodies for identification, pulled off his PMA ring and noticed his finger twitched.

Querubin was pulled out of the pile of bodies and nursed back to life at the V. Luna Hospital. Several months later, he escaped with the help of a woman doctor.

In 1995, Querubin was granted amnesty and went back to the Marines. While assigned in Lanao in 1999, Querubin fought a group of Moro rebels where he was awarded the Medal of Valor for showing exemplary courage.

In 2002, Querubin led a Marine team that encountered Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya in the seas off Zamboanga del Norte. Sabaya was reported killed but his body was never found.

MMDA to launch roadwork safety program

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF both Metro motorists and roadwork laborers, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) plans to launch the Roadwork Discipline Program next month.

"This program is aimed at promoting safety in all roadwork (project) sites ... to prevent them from being unsightly, so that they would serve as an encouraging model. There are already existing guidelines, but they have not been implemented. This time, the MMDA will be strictly enforcing them," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview.

Fernando said the safety guidelines will be implemented in all roadwork projects being undertaken in the metropolis, and will cover both public and private construction firms, including the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Program part of MMDA's 'Metro Gwapo'

The program's launching is in line with the agency's overall makeover program for the metropolis dubbed "Metro Gwapo."

MMDA Traffic Engineering Center chief Ramon Ona said Fernando saw the need for the program after observing the chaotic condition at the work sites of most Metro road projects.

"You would see unsightly fences, workers sleeping on the roads, even barracks obstructing the roadway. Sometimes, the workers' barracks are even left at the [job site] like they were [shanties]," Fernando said.

"Work sites should always be in order and uniform safety provisions should always be followed," he added.

Ona, who was tasked by Fernando to lay down the detailed guidelines, said the Roadwork Discipline Program will cover all safety aspects in roadwork sites.

Orderly work sites a must

"The workers must be strictly in uniform ... in standard color so that they can easily be recognized. There should also be housekeeping, which means the work site must not be in disarray," Ona said in an interview.

Safety signs should also be standardized, and barricades or fences must always be installed first before roadwork can begin, he pointed out. To ensure compliance with the program, a safety engineer must be present at the site during work hours, Ona said.

"We are preparing the details [of the program]. We'll start soon, we're just giving [contractors] time to adjust. They have been told that they should include in their pricing all the safety requirements" before applying for a roadwork permit with the MMDA, Fernando said.

All roadwork projects in Metro Manila must have a go-signal from the MMDA, as the agency has the power to grant or reject applications for excavation or digging permits.

To ensure compliance, Fernando said the agency will bolster its site inspection efforts once the program takes effect. The MMDA may revoke the roadwork permits of violators, he added.

A GROUP of Girl Scouts from Quezon City display their skills during the Girl Scouts of the Philippines grand reunion held last week in Novaliches. RODEL ROTONI

Girl Scouts have grand time at grand reunion

By Tony Maghirang
Contributor

ONCE A GIRL SCOUT, ALWAYS A GIRL SCOUT. The motto of the scouting movement echoed all throughout the day-long Balik Girl Scout of the Philippines (GSP) grand reunion held last Saturday at the Concepcion R. Gonzales National Training Center in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Some 400 former and current GSP members, their ages ranging from 16 to 80, came from all over the country—from the Ilocos region up north, to Davao down south—to attend the gathering.

The Girl Scout Promise

The event capped the 65th anniversary celebration of the founding of the GSP movement. A thanksgiving Mass started the day, followed by a reaffirmation of their promise "to do my duty to God and my country... and to live by the Girl Scout Law."

A series of life-affirming tenets, the Girl Scout Law is a guide to help members of the movement lead responsible lives as grown-ups, and initiate the next generation of young girls into the scouting way of life.

Fun-filled day

During the grand reunion day, the scouts spent their most of their time attending seven skills workshops. Sessions in essay writing, cooking and singing were done before lunchtime followed by beadwork, herbal gardening, painting and dancing.

Dancing was the liveliest session with participants warming up through tango and presenting to the general assembly a boisterous version of the Big Brother dance routine, ending with a long line of swaying dancers.

The budding painters produced motley images from abstract to still life. Only three Girl Scouts participated in the essay-writing workshop and each one won cash prizes donated by the Friends of the Girl Scouts, a group of distinguished former members.

Declining interest in scouting

Balik-GSP president Amelita Go, however, lamented the apparent decline in interest in the movement among young girls. She said this may be due to various activities offered in schools and the fact that most parents, especially those in impoverished areas, are not keen on shelling out P35 in annual GSP dues.

The GSP chief also pointed out that a pending bill in Congress seeking the unification of the Girl and Boy Scouts under a generic Scouts organization could spell the end of government financial support to the GSP, and possibly the movement itself.

Still, Go is upbeat about the future. She said, "We (Balik Girl Scouts) are volunteers here. This is really payback time for all the good things scouting has provided to us. There is no compensation for having given us the courage, support and the right formative values for success. We hope we can still reach out to young girls about the real benefits of being a Girl Scout."

BALIK-GIRL Scouts president Dr. Amelita Go is optimistic that the movement will be able to encourage young girls to get involved in scouting. RODEL ROTONI

Suspect killed in Rizal shootout

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A SUSPECTED DRUG PUSHER WAS KILLED in a shootout with policemen in Taytay, Rizal at around midnight Saturday.

The police also arrested the suspect's cohort, a former policeman.

Felix Vargas, public information officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) in Rizal which conducted the operation, identified the suspect who was killed as Christopher Chavez.

Chavez, he added, had been hiding from authorities for almost two years after warrants for his arrest were issued in 2004. The suspect was facing drug and illegal possession of firearms charges.

His cohort, former policeman Pedro Bracamonte, was also facing arrest on charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Vargas said CIDT operatives went to Barangay San Juan in Taytay shortly before midnight Saturday after receiving information that the two men were in the area, on board a blue Kia Pride sedan.

When operatives flagged the vehicle down at a police checkpoint, Bracamonte stepped on the gas.

The policemen gave chase, firing at the fleeing suspects as Chavez, who was in the passenger seat, fired back, Vargas said.

When policemen caught up with the suspects after 20 minutes, they found Chavez dead, his body bearing several several gunshot wounds. The windshield on his side of the car was shattered.

Bracamonte, on the other hand, was unhurt. In a report, the operatives said they recovered a sachet of suspected shabu from him.

The operatives also said they recovered seven sachets of dried marijuana leaves, three glass pipes, a .45 caliber handgun and a magazine loaded with six live ammunition inside the car.

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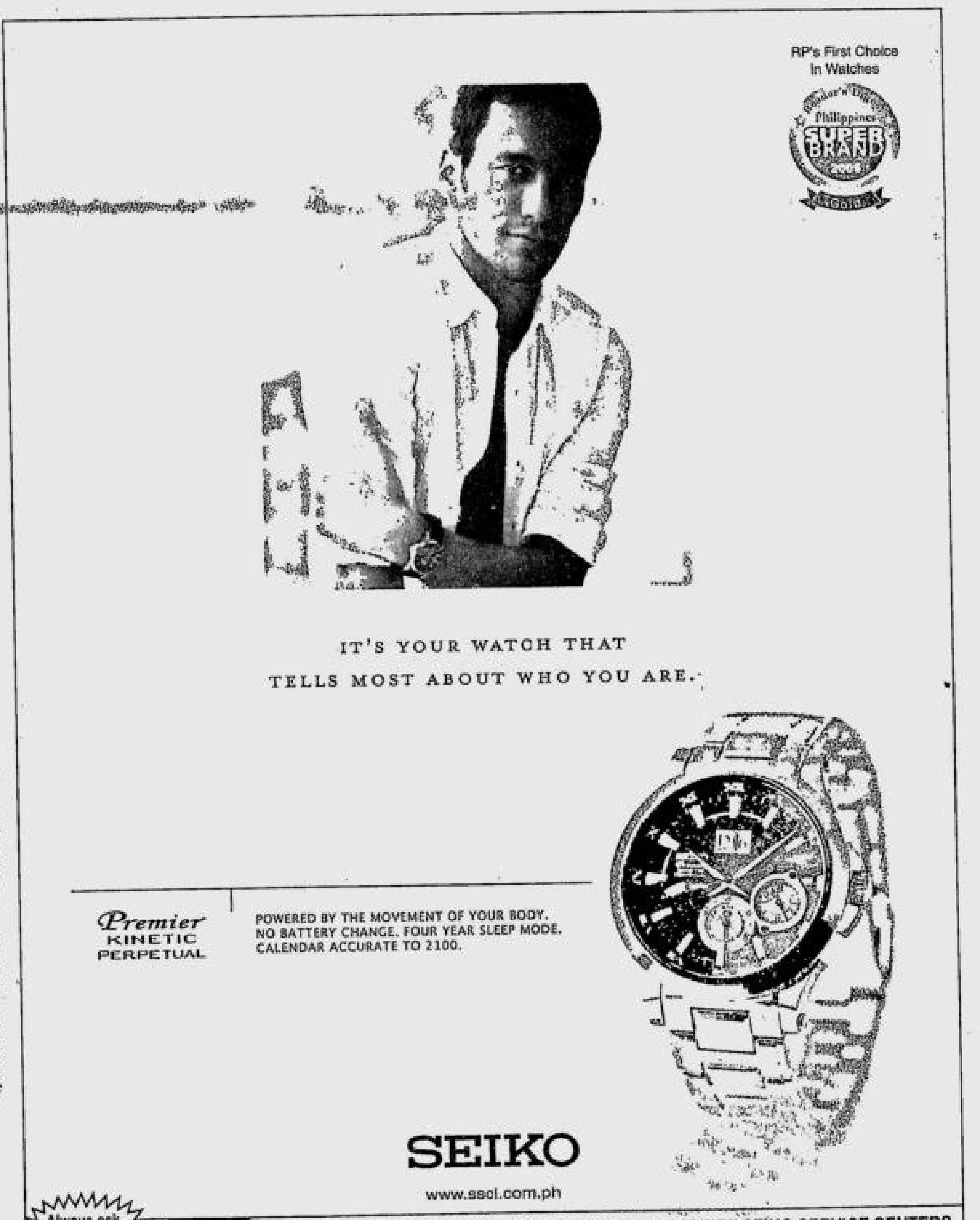

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NBI to talk to stampede victims

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AROUND 200 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES to the "Wowowee" stampede are expected to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) today in connection with the ongoing probe into the Feb. 4 incident at the PhilSports Arena that killed 71 people.

NBI National Capital Region executive officer Ferdinand Lavin said around 10 agents will take the complete statements of the victims, who will be accompanied by officials of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

"We will ask the victims if they are amenable to a question and answer method," Lavin told reporters in an interview, adding that it will take them the whole day to finish the task.

"We will also ask them clarificatory questions if they have prepared affidavits with them," he added.

Unlike the ABS-CBN officials who will be questioned at the NBI conference room, the victims will gather at the bureau's gymnasium at around 9 a.m.

The NBI had earlier issued subpoenas to network officers Rene Luspo, vice president and security head; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager; Harold James Nueva, associate producer; Owen Garcia, segment producer; Marilou Almaden, production manager and business unit head; Morly Nueva, executive producer-manager; and a still unidentified location manager.

The ABS-CBN officers are scheduled to give their statements at 10 a.m. today.

VACC founding chair Dante Jimenez said the victims' statements will be "part and parcel of the evidence they would use in taking the appropriate action against those found culpable for the Feb. 4 stampede."

Jimenez also said he will present the organization's final report on the stampede today.

"I will read it in front of the victims at the NBI gymnasium," he said, adding that the report will include new observations on the stampede and the people recommended for indictment.

Jimenez added, "The stampede victims feel bad because it seems they have been forgotten after the Southern Leyte landslide took place last week."

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STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY
The country may be in an abnormal situation, according to Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, but for this woman and her son on an early morning stroll a few meters away from Malacañang Palace, life goes on. LYN RILLON

Pass card to solve truckers' woes?

By Nancy C. Carvajal

PASS CARDS MAY BE ISSUED STARTING next month to truckers to help address the problems they face: Illegal checkpoints, extortion and hijacking.

"The issuance of pass cards is a control system which would reduce extortion through illegal checkpoints and hijacking," said Supt. Rafael Santiago, head of the Northern Police District Anti-Hijacking Task Force.

The use of pass cards will initially be implemented in Metro Manila in line with the Philippine National Police's campaign against hijacking.

Under the system, the truckers will be required to present their pass card at all fixed checkpoints (also called control points) which will be set up by the task force in major thoroughfares in Metro Manila.

All pass cards, Santiago said, will contain a control number issued at the first control point. It should also indicate the address of the police district, contact number (including the cell phone number of a unit member), and the date when the control number was issued.

Other information include the truck's origin, destination, description of cargo, routes to be taken, name of operator and contact number, name of driver and signature, the names of other passengers on board, type of vehicle and the plate number.

Santiago said truck drivers must carry their pass card at all times. Each time they go through a checkpoint, they must present it to policemen who will note down in the card the time the truck passed through the control point. The entries should be validated by the signature of the checkpoint's team leader above his name.

"With this kind of information, policemen would be discouraged from extorting money from truckers because they could easily be identified," Santiago explained.

Should the control officer at a checkpoint find something wrong in the entries, he can hold the truck pending immediate verification, he added.

In the event that hijackers get hold of the pass card and the cargo truck, Santiago said that "if the policeman is good, he could easily spot a bogus from the legitimate card or compare the driver's photo and name on his license with the entries in the pass card."

METROBRIEFS

Fire!

FIRE struck 10 houses in Pasay City on Saturday, leaving 22 families homeless and destroying P2 million worth of property. The police said no one was reported hurt in the fire which began at 9 a.m. in a boarding house owned by Anselmo Aguilar on H. Domingo Street corner Park Avenue. It then spread to other houses in the neighborhood before it was finally put out at noon, said Senior Insp. Junito Maslang. Quoting witnesses, Maslang said the fire was triggered by a gas leak. But Insp. Leo Antiso said they have yet to establish the real cause of the blaze.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Inmates have fun

EVEN for just a brief moment, the 732 detainees at the Makati City Jail forgot their problems as they cheered and rooted for their fellow inmates who competed in the annual search for the prison's Mr. and Ms Valentine held on Thursday. "We organized this to ease their boredom, and so that somehow, they would forget that they are detained here," said Jail Officer 3 William Bautista, chief of the Inmates' Welfare and Development Unit at the prison facility. The annual search, which is funded by the Makati Social Welfare Department, is part of the city jail's activity calendar, which includes a sports festival every summer, religious activities during the Lenten season, a Mayflower Festival, and special holiday parties.

Tarra V. Quismundo

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Juvic stands up to Frankie

Brand-new pro triumphs in sudden death, bags ₱1.2M purse

Sabal Pasig River champ
Page A26

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—THE amateur star is now a money-making machine.

Tested by no less than the country's top par-buster, Juvic Pagunsan didn't flinch, turning back Frankie Miñoza in a sudden-death playoff yesterday to capture the rich The Country Club Invitational championship here.

The win was worth P1.2 million for the 27-year-old Pagunsan, who was playing in only his second tournament since turning pro early last month after hurdling the Asian Tour qualifying in Malaysia.

The breakthrough victory came on the same daunting windswept course where he capped an outstanding amateur career by bagging two gold medals for the country in the Southeast Asian Games last December.

More importantly, it showed Miñoza's successor has arrived.

Although he got into the last two rounds only when tournament organizer Ricky Razon relaxed the rules on the 36-hole survivors, Miñoza proved the decision was justified by coming within four holes of winning.

The 46-year-old ace from Del Monte, Bukidnon, went on to fire a second straight two-under-par 68—the day's best score and the only player to fire back-to-back under-par rounds—to finish 72 holes with a seven-over 287 total.

Pagunsan, six up on Frankie at the start of the day, bogeyed four straight holes from the ninth, but matched regulation in the last six. He secured the playoff with a long two-putt par for a closing 74.

The two returned to the par-4 18th to settle the issue and it was Miñoza, who blinked, hitting a "flyer" with a 7 iron that disappeared in the lake at the back of the green.

Pagunsan's 8-iron approach rolled into the right trap beside the lake and Miñoza kept the suspense when his chip after a drop nearly found the hole before stopping some eight feet away.

Juvic then blasted to within three feet, but Frankie made the putt coming back for bogey to maintain pressure.

Pagunsan would not be denied, however, as he calmly sank the putt for par and the small gallery on the 18th erupted with glee.

Miñoza congratulated then hugged Pagunsan, who responded by raising the right hand of his rival and telling the crowd: "My boss."

Pagunsan, with his wife cradling their sleeping 3-year-old daughter LJ at the clubhouse, later said it was an honor to face the country's No. 1 player in a playoff.

"*Manalo o matalo, sabi ko maka-playoff ko lang si Frankie tama na sa akin* (Win or lose, just playing off with Frankie was enough for me," said Pagunsan.

Frankie said the victory will boost the confidence of Juvic, who won only $1,400 in his pro debut at the Pakistan Open early this month.

Actually Miñoza, who picked up P600,000 from the P4 million total pot, held the solo lead with his third birdie for the day on the 13th to go three under.

JUVIC Pagunsan blasts out of the trap guarding the playoff hole. JESS YUSON

But he hit into a fairway trap on the 16th and gave the stroke back. He then missed a seven-foot birdie putt on the short par-3 17th.

Mars Pucay, winner of the Omega Open last month, birdied the 18th to seize third place alone at 289 with a final 70.

Ramil Bisera and Artemio Murakami, who also put the squeeze on Pagunsan early in the round, faded on the back nine to finish tied for fourth with Gerald Rosales at 290.

Miñoza and defending champion Jerome Delariarte finished tied at the 36-hole cutoff mark of 151 with seven others. Instead of choosing only two players to complete the original 16-man cast for the last two rounds, Razon gave all those in the tie the green light to advance.

JUVIC/ A26

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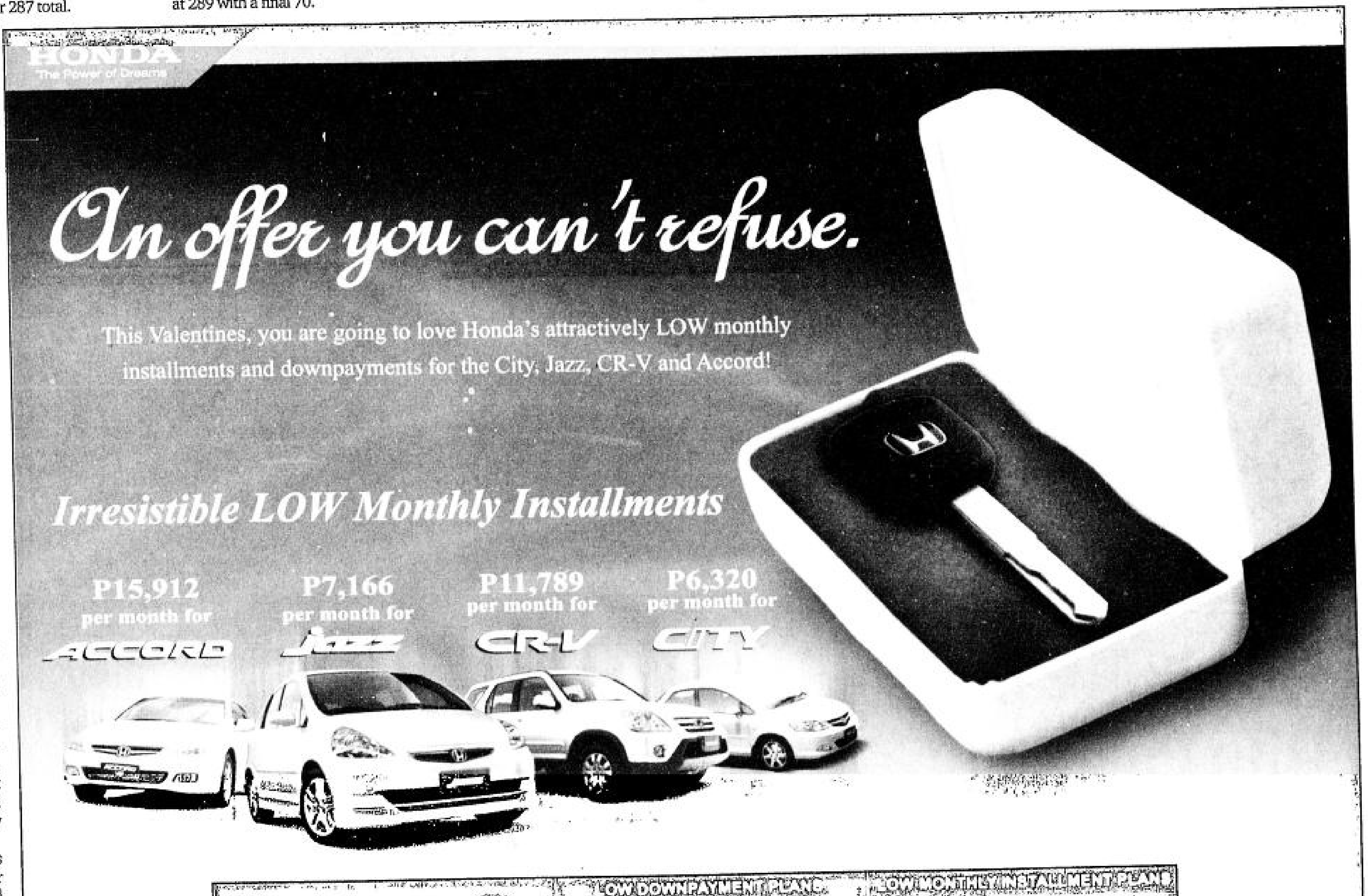

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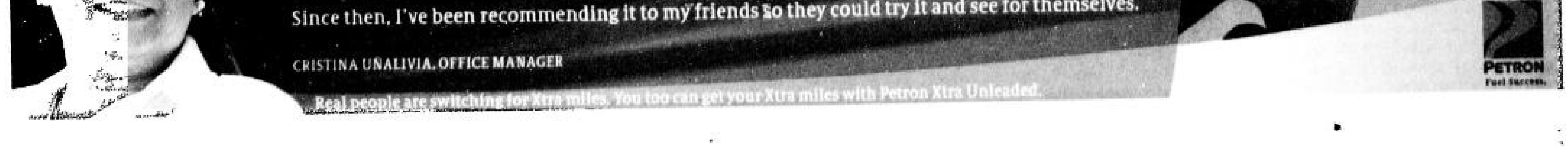

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PBA All-Filipino conference too tough to call

ALVAREZ: New Bull

By Francis Ochoa

IN LINING UP THE FAVORITES FOR THE coming PBA All-Filipino Cup, you don't have to look back to the time Barangay Ginebra won the tournament to earn the tag defending champion.

Just glance at the recent Fiesta Conference.

While the Kings, and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals continue to be the traditional favorites in the conference—the two, after all, battled it out for the crown last season—three other teams have disturbed the rankings with their performance in the previous tournament.

Red Bull, Purefoods and Air21, which finished 1-2-3 in the Fiesta Conference, are now being mentioned in the same breath as Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text, especially with the way the three teams beefed up their rosters during the break.

"I think we're a better team right now," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who steered his squad to the title against the Purefoods Chunkee Giants. "Our confidence level is high since we're able to prove that we can compete against the best."

The Bulls even got stronger, at least with their local roster. Red Bull acquired rebounding workhorse Rich Alvarez from Alaska, which declogged a logjam at the small forward spot by unloading the former Ateneo star in exchange for a pair of first-rounders in the next two years.

Alvarez thus reunites with Ateneo teammates Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia. The four were vital cogs in the Blue Eagles' 2002 varsity championship.

"He's worth giving up our first picks in the 2006 and 2007 drafts," said Guaio.

With Alvarez on board, the Bulls are brimming with optimism.

"We now have a chance to go for a double championship and we'll surely go for it," said team manager Tony Chua.

The Express added height and mobility, while also trimming the excesses of their roster. Air21 dealt away bullstrong forward John Ferriols to the Phone Pals for mobile big man Mark Telan. The Express also unloaded Wesley Gonzales and Homer Se to San Miguel and Purefoods respectively.

After Air21's third place finish, coach Bo Perasol said there's nothing to go for his team but up.

"Anything less than a Finals stint would be a setback," said the young mentor. "We won't be content with just a respectable finish anymore. I keep telling the players we should now set our sights higher."

With rookie Jondan Salvador decommissioned by an anterior cruciate ligament tear, Purefoods bulked up its frontline by acquiring the 6-foot-5 Se from the Express and giving up a second-round pick for the coming draft. The Giants also signed Eugene Tejada.

Negros booters battle back, dethrone NCR

By Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—VETERAN ZIGGY TONOG always comes up big when he plays against a team bannered by the Philippine Army booters.

The 33-year-old defender proved this again yesterday as he spearheaded Negros Occidental's come-from-behind 2-1 triumph over Army-laced National Capital Region for the PFF-National Men's Open crown at the sun-baked Iloilo Sports Complex here.

Tonog struck the equalizer—a left-footed volley off Jason Panhay's teasing lob from the left in the 23rd minute—and was the pillar of strength of an undersized defensive line in the second half as Negros foiled NCR's "three-peat" bid.

Diminutive striker Arnie Pasinabo, who was later named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, knocked in the game-winner, latching on a pass from Michael Benedicto, before slotting the ball past NCR keeper Eduardo Sacapaño from close range in the 74th minute.

Pasinabo also played the hero's role in Negros' 1-0 nipping of Zamboanga and 2-1 victory over North Cotabato in the elimination round.

"There's always a motivation in every game, but I guess there must be something about playing against Army that brings out the best in me," said Tonog, who claimed his first National Open crown at the age of 18, also at the expense of Army.

Battle-weary and plagued with injuries, Negros, bannered by players from the University of St. La Salle, was given little chance against the more experienced NCR squad after losing striker Floriano Pasilan late in the first half and midfielder FJ Serios 22 minutes into the final frame.

But Negros coach Freddie Lazarito saw no need to push the panic button. "The good thing about this team is that it has players who can be effective in multiple positions," he said.

Earlier, Team Biscocho Haus-Iloilo drew two goals each from Ruben Doctora and Kenley Delgado to crush North Cotabato, 4-1, for third place in this tournament organized by the Iloilo Football Association in cooperation with Gov. Niel Tupas and Mayor Jerry Treñas and backed by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Majority of the individual awards also went to Negros with Joel Ballo-Allo selected as the best defender and Panhay named top midfielder. NCR's Ian Araneta, who scored eight goals in the tournament but was hardly a factor in the finals, was the hands-down choice for best striker.

A NEGROS player celebrates his team's come-from-behind victory over the defending champion NCR. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Montaña noses out Pacquiao dribblers

ILIGAN CITY—RANDY PANERIO SPLIT HIS charities with two seconds left as Montaña Pawnshop-Davao pipped PacMan-General Santos, 79-78, in overtime Saturday at the start of the Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) tournament at the full-packed Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology Gym.

Montaña guard Ryan Abanes had earlier hit a triple to even the count at 78-all, with 30 seconds to go, but PacMan-General Santos flubbed its next possession.

Panerio then drew a foul from Dondon Tadena and sank his first free throw, missing the second.

Montaña's Mark Legarde sent the game into overtime with a lay-up with five ticks to go, 70-70.

In the main game of the tournament backed by ML Kwarta Padala, Panasonic and Nature's Spring Drinking Water, host Iligan City dominated the game from start to finish to thwart Pryce Pharma-Misamis Oriental, 91-88.

Boxing hero Manny Pacquiao was in the first five of his very own PacMan-General Santos squad, but it was Montaña forward Mark Bonifacio who scored the league's first two points.

As part of the opening rites, Pacquiao pumped in 14 points as he teamed up with Mayor Lawrence Cruz and the Iligan Executives downed MVBA chair Gov. Oscar S. Moreno and the Misamis Oriental Executives in an exhibition game, 56-52.

Juvic stands . . .

From page A25

Final standings:

287—J. Pagunsan 71-71-71-74 (36-38) P1.2 million (won on first hole of playoff); F. Miñoza 77-74-68-68 (33-35) P610,000 **289**—M. Pucay 72-74-73-70 (36-34) P390,000 **290**—G. Rosales 70-77-70-73 (39-34); R. Bisera 68-75-72-75 (37-38); A. Murakami 70-73-74-73 (34-39) P220,666.67 each; **292**—R. Pactolerin 69-77-72-74 (37-37); C. Casas 69-75-71-77 (40-37); C. Villaroman 72-76-71-73 (34-39) P116,333.33 **293**—A. Lascuña 73-76-73-71 (34-37) P90,000 **294**—J. Delariarte 76-75-68-75 (38-37) P80,000 **295**—D. Zarate 72-79-74-70 (37-33); M. Dizon 74-76-70-75 (39-36) P67,500 each **296**—C. La'O 72-73-79-72 (35-37); E. Salvador 77-74-71-74 (35-39); R. Sasuti 71-79-70-76 (36-40) PP55,500 each **297**—R. Sinluego 70-77-74-76 (38-38) P45,000 **299**—Rey Pagunsan 75-76-74-74 (38-36) P40,000 **300**—A. Que 71-79-76-74 (36-38) P35,000 **301**—P. Miñoza 77-74-75-75 (38-37) P30,000 **302**—R. Alit 77-74-76-75 (40-35) P25,000.

Sabal tops Pasig River marathon in style

SABAL: New record

CRESENCIANO SABAL POURED IT ON IN THE final third of the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River and won pulling away yesterday.

Sabal shadowed early pace-setter Robert Mjoruge Wambagu of Kenya in the first 10 kilometers before charging ahead at the approach to Nagtahan Bridge in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

He crossed the finish line at The Fort in Global City, Taguig, in a new record time of two hours, 26 minutes and 13 seconds and pocketed the P100,000 winner's prize.

Sabal was followed home exactly four minutes and 16 seconds later by defending champion Bernardo Desamito (2:30.29). Desamito, who won last year's race in 2:39.33, took home the P50,000 second prize.

Armyman Memerto Corpuz finished third in 2:32.24, followed by Regelio Sarmiento (2:35:28) and Rodolfo Tacadino (2:36.02).

Southeast Asian Games veteran Jhoan Banayag topped the women's race in 2:02.27 and won P75,000. Baguio's Flor de Carreon-Cachero followed her home in 2:09.03.

Rene Herrera ruled the men's 10K in 31:28, while Mercedita Manipol dominated the women's race in 36:36.

Wambagu, who learned about the race on the Internet three days ago, lost his luggage while changing flights for Manila. He completed the race in pairs of running shorts and shoes borrowed from researcher Cesar Villacer.

The Kenyan eventually wound up in 10th place, but not after giving his Filipino rivals a tough fight in the first 10 km. and despite arriving in Manila barely an hour before the marathon.

The 24-year-old Wambagu took off with a burst of speed at the starting line in front of Manila Cathedral and led Sabal and Jujet de Asis as they crossed Jones Bridge, 3 km. into the race.

5K winner puts Milo Palawan champs in shade

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Ruben Samuya and Maricris Laipan topped the centerpiece 21K event of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday, but 11-year-old Jila dela Rosa stole the show with her stunning victory in the 5K event at the Mendoza Park here.

The 33-year-old Samuya led from start to finish to pocket the P10,000 top purse and qualify to the 42K national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

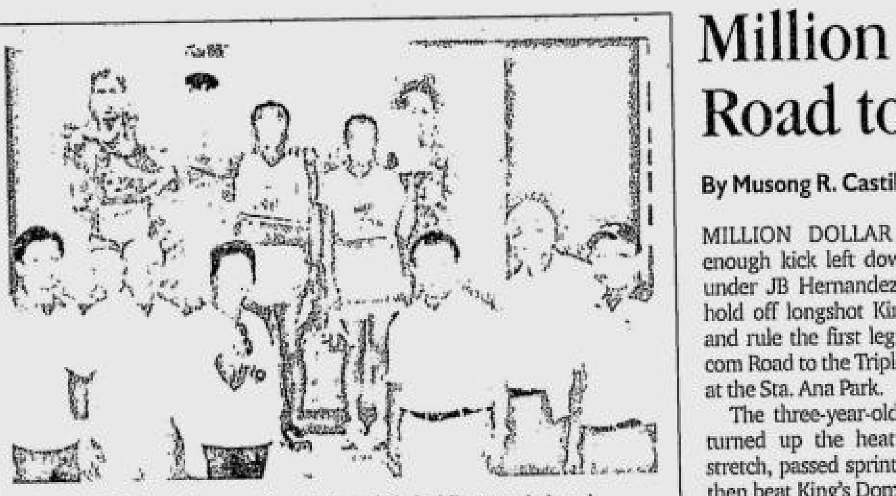
Samuya timed one hour, 17 minutes and 25 seconds in beating runner-up Marco Laipan (1:17:51). Third placer was Billy Garcia (1:18:19). Laipan and Garcia also made it to the national finals.

Maricris Laipan, an 18-year-old Education student at Palawan State University, led two other teenage qualifiers to this year's finals with a time of 1:53:00.

Finishing second and third, respectively, to Laipan, who claimed her first Milo leg title, were 19-year-old May Ann Regalia (2:02:00) and 18-year-old Mary Grace Tabangay (2:10:57).

"*May mga limang buwan ko ding pinaghandaan ang* Milo Marathon (I prepared for the race for five months)," said the jobless Samuya, who also captured a leg title for the first time.

While Samuya and Laipan won virtually unchallenged in the 21K races of the annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Powerbar, a Grade 6 pupil from the Mauricio Reynoso Jr. Memorial High School drew the loudest cheers from the Palawenos.


WINNERS Ruben Samuya (fourth from left, holding trophy) and Maricris Laipan, with (from left) Nestle Phils. distributor sales specialist Audie Rafanan, Palawan Chinese Chamber of Commerce head Agustin Go, Palawan Chamber of Commerce president Virginia Gapoz, former PCC president Atty. Vic Tan, Rotary Club assistant district governor Sammy Alarcon and Milo Sports Events Executive Pat Goc-ong.

Young enough to join the Kiddies 3K race, De la Rosa surprised her more senior rivals by topping the women's 5K with a time of 22 minutes, two seconds.

"*Hindi ko po alam kung nasaan ang mga kalaban ko, basta tumakbo na lang po ako* (I ran without knowing where my rivals were)," said dela Rosa, whose 15-year-old sister, Ira, placed fifth in the race.

Dela Rosa's nearest pursuers were second placer Ronalyn Magaso (23:36) and Cherry Ann Magbanua (23:54).

Rolan Ornada ruled the men's 5K run on his first attempt with a clocking of 17:41.

Felix Magbanua followed Ornada home in 18:09, with Hermie Fernandez third in 18:15.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn fired the starting gun that flagged off the 4,800 runners.

Million Dollar rules 1st Road to Triple Crown leg

By Musong R. Castillo

MILLION DOLLAR HAD JUST enough kick left down the stretch under JB Hernandez last night to hold off longshot King's Dominion and rule the first leg of the Philracom Road to the Triple Crown series at the Sta. Ana Park.

The three-year-old chestnut colt turned up the heat in the backstretch, passed sprinter Karma, and then beat King's Dominion by half a length to book the biggest win of his career.

The win was worth P600,000 for owner Nap Chua, who tapped Hernandez to guide the third pick Million Dollar after Fernando Raquel opted to ride Manila's Smile.

"We knew we had a chance of winning," Chua said. "We prepared Million Dollar hard because he was peaking and showed us signs of reaching his potential."

Sound of Silence won out in a photo finish over Manila's Gem for third spot, worth P125,000 for owner Hermie Esguerra. Ed Moreno won P225,000 for King's Dominion's runner-up finish.

The win was also the second stakes victory in two days for Hernandez, who also steered Triple Crown hope Juggernaut to an overpowering performance in the PCSO Freedom Cup on Saturday.

Million Dollar's impressive victory, clocked at 1:42.8 (24'-24-25'28) over the mile, has made the colt one of the chargers to watch in the Triple Crown series.

Record junior badminton tourney field seen

ORGANIZERS ARE ANTICIPATING A RECORD field seeing action in the JVC Open Juniors Badminton Championships which will kick off its third season on March 25-26 at SM Megamall.

The series, slated at SM malls across the country, has lured the country's finest young shuttlers with thousands more signifying their interest to join, according to the organizing IMG.

Events on tap are the 10-under, 12-under and 14-under divisions with the singles winners in the 12-under play receiving P100,000 worth of college educational plans from Pioneer Life.

The organizers will hold a series of qualifiers from March 21 to 24 at PowerSmash.

JVC has also renewed its partnership with the SM chain of malls, which will host not only the JVC badminton event but also taekwondo and wushu as part of the electronic firm's annual summer sports program.

Deadline for the free registration is March 15. For inquiries, call 894-2995, 892-9866, 725-2568 or text 0917-8050702, 0917-8050601 or 0917-5328970. Log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or email at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.

SPORTSWATCH

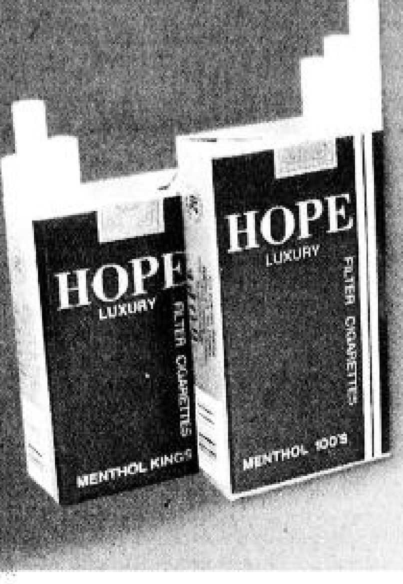
UP Vanguard Commanders Cup golf slated

THE CAMPAIGN to drum up interest in the reserved officers training Corps (ROTC) gets a big boost when the UP Vanguard stages a fund-raising golf tournament on Thursday at the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club in Laguna. Called the UP Vanguard National Commanders Cup, the 18-hole event will raise funds for the reformulation of the academic curriculum of the ROTC, the improvement of facilities of the DMST complex as well as scholarship grants. The UP Vanguard Inc., the alumni organization of the UP ROTC Corps of Officers, has drawn support from big companies. Royal Capital Securities Corp. is the major sponsor while Turf Company/Club Car, Euromotors Corp., Josol Home Décor Industrial Improvement Center and CICI General Insurance Corp. are hole sponsors. Half hole backers are No Fear, Camp John Hay Development, Corp., Alexander's Wear, Levi's Strauss Phil., Inc. and Air 21/Corporate Air. A Club Car, a kinetic Moped 50cc bicycle, a Jacuzzi and P50,000 are among the hole-in-one prizes

Greenwood 5-cocker kicks off in Makati

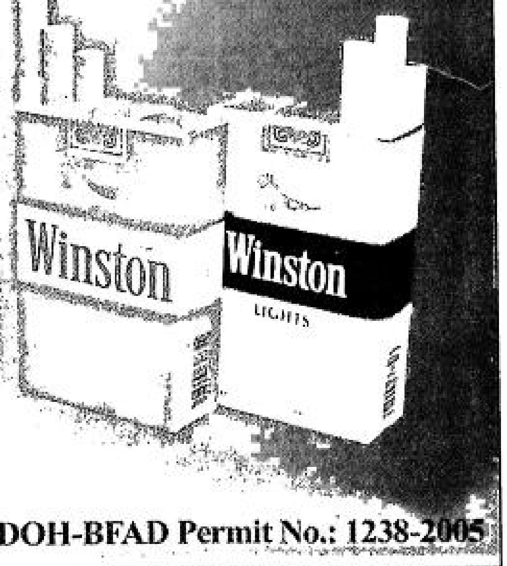
IT WILL be a fight to the finish among seasoned cockfighters when the "Greenwood 5-Cock Derby" blasts off today at the Makati Coliseum, with B-Meg Derby Ace as main backer. Newspaper publisher Jake Macasaet, the derby host, has invited his fellow members from PCCA and PCAP, as well as breeders from Batangas and Laguna to compete. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Congratulations to the winners of



HOPE & Winston

WIN A LUXURY DRIVE



Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.: 1238-2005

(2) 1st Prize – Mercedes Benz C-180 Sports Edition

GMA / Luzon	Visayas / Mindanao
Marlon P. Garcia 27 years old, Brgy. 2 Garreta, Badoc, Ilocos Norte	**Raul M. Serino** 45 years old, Purok Lerio Acmac, Iligan City

(4) 2nd Prize – Toyota Fortuner 4X2 Gasoline

GMA / Luzon	Visayas / Mindanao
Florinda E. Brigino 44 years old, 13 P. Mejia St., Libis, Quezon City	**Rosalinda Bantilan** 40 years old, 40 Maapa St., General Santos City
Mariano G. Plaza 56 years old, 337 Brgy. Cale, Tanauan City, Batangas	**Early D. Sumagang** 28 years old, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte

(8) 3rd Prize – All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

GMA / Luzon		Visayas / Mindanao	
Matilde P. Florentino, 44 years old 341 Marula A. Caloocan City	**Sarah R. Redoblado**, 37 years old Iraya Sur, Oas, Albay	**Baby A. Guffan**, 29 years old Garces Compound, Tipolo, Mandaue City	**Efren L. Lintad**, 33 years old Purok I Linangkayan, Naawan, Misamis Oriental
Erlinda R. Bool, 56 years old 63 Calle Ignacio Ilagan Formerly P. Zamora St., Taal, Batangas 4208	**Erlinda J. Lucena**, 53 years old 26 Quirino St., Lagudin, Ilocos Sur	**Orlando Hidalgo**, 56 years old Km. 3 Libertad, Butuan City	**Margie R. Aballa**, 26 years old San Nicolas Manggahan Purok 1 Crossing Bayabas Toril, Davao City

(20) 4th Prize – Tag Heuer Watch F1 Chronograph Red Dial

GMA / Luzon		Visayas / Mindanao	
Moises H. Basco, 53 years old 34 Brgy. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	Bernardo F. Mendoza, 50 years old 111-A Paco, Obando, Bulacan	Merlyn S. Cenia, 53 years old MMZ Store, Purok Pioneer, Visayan Village, Tagum City, Davao Norte 8100	Cynthia Madredijo, 53 years old Ichon Macrohon, Southern Leyte
Rosalinda S. Flores, 33 years old 719 5th Avenue St., Grace Park, Caloocan City	Ruth M. Miala, 54 years old Tagas, Daraga, Albay	Mario C. Cublan, 51 years old 609 Purok Yakal, Talisay, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte	Jean F. Patayon, 34 years old 158 Rizal St., Canubay, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental
Fe A. Layug, 31 years old Magliman, Bacolor, Pampanga	Edilberto G. Salindong Sr., 76 years old 41 Zamora St., Poblacion East, San Nicolas, Pangasinan	Wilma M. Delvo, 44 years old 4827 Villaverde Subd., Banao, Dumaguete City	Benjamin E. Pineda, 74 years old Villa Hermosa Subd., Bo. Baldoza, La Paz, Iloilo City
Romeo P. Lures, 61 years old 2443 San Francisco St., Angeles City, Pampanga	Hector M. Sy, 34 years old 45 Gov. Pascual Avenue, Concepcion, Malabon City	Noel D. Glang, 47 years old Magsaysay, Parang, Maguindanao	Ricardo Y. Razo, 50 years old Purok 7 Tambo Hinaplanon, Iligan City
Teresa E. Macalalay, 32 years old Lumbangan, Nasugbu, Batangas	Nerlita B. Taruc, 41 years old Pattao, Buguey, Cagayan	Eduardlisto Lopez, 36 years old Mantata-o, Calape, Bohol	Analyn C. Saron, 26 years old Blk. 28, Lot 62 Pahanocoy Village, Bacolod City

(80) 5th Prize – Apple iPOD Nano

GMA / Luzon		Visayas / Mindanao	
Russia M. Aguilar, 40 years old 753 Int. 77 Rosalbago, Tondo, Manila	Norma M. Lozano, 57 years old Dulao, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya	Fortunato K. Alcuizar, 40 years old Brgy. Bocator, Tangub City	Angelito Y. Manalo, 51 years old [illegible] Estate Brgy. City Heights Gen. Santos City
Alexander C. Aquino, 50 years old Lot 8 Block 7 Phase 2 Sec. 16 Pabahay 2000 Muzon, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	Lorenzo Lozano, 21 years old Cepanalan, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur 2713	Ban T. Alasna, 28 years old 1184 Juana Osmeña Ext., Cebu City	Celestino B. Manalo, 56 years old 327 D. Camins St., Zamboanga City
Marco C. Ballesteros, 22 years old 33 Longos, San Fabian, Pangasinan	Melchor T. Macandog, 36 years old Brgy. Mabini, Jovellar, Albay	Filoteo Alvarico, 46 years old Pang., Siquijor, Siquijor 6225	Arwin A. Mandiangan, 30 years old Brgy. 598 Sagkahan, Tacloban City
Rodolfo P. Bankal, 57 years old 1500 A. Mendoza St., Makati City	Mauricio Madayag Jr., 39 years old Brgy. San Lorenzo, [illegible], Laoag City	Gregorio Arnaco, 68 years old Culasi Port, Roxas City	Adriano A. Napiere, 46 years old 842 Delgado St., Gabas, Baybay, Leyte 6521
Ma. Fe Esperanza P. Cajipe, 37 years old [illegible] Valenzuela [illegible] City 1268	Rosana C. Mercado, 42 years old Mangayawan, Canaman, Camarines Sur	Dinah P. Bruno, 53 years old Sapphire St., City Heights, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental	Anita M. Navarrete, 44 years old Monte Alegre, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur
Helen B. Caluya, 45 years old 20 Anneth St., Marulas, Valenzuela City	Pacita R. Mendoza, 46 years old Tanza, Boac, Marinduque	Milagrosa P. Capulso, 59 years old Hipona, Pontevedra, Capiz	Juvy L. Padilla, 40 years old Bo. 7 Banga, South Cotabato
Jocelyn S. Carabit, 42 years old Alupay, San Narciso, Quezon	Virginia Mendoza, 43 years old Overland Subd., A.R. Bagac, Bataan	Kristie Joy D. Cariño, 21 years old 211 Col. Vicente Nuñez St., Glan, Sarangani Province, Mindanao 9517	Joel L. Payor, 22 years old P-2A Baang, Butuan City
Remigia M. Camoon, 69 years old 353 Pulong Santol, Porac, Pampanga	Ramon M. Mosa, 47 years old Pob. Aroroy, Masbate	Eulemia A. Cordova, 72 years old 335 Mabolo St., Villamonte, Bacolod City	Marjorie Perez, 46 years old Brgy. Jibolo, Panla, Taytay, Janiuay, Iloilo 5034
Jaime C. Cas, 52 years old [illegible] Tabaco City	Helen C. Mosias, 46 years old Minoro, San Jose, Camarines Sur 4423	Gloria Dejar, 52 years old Awa-an, Ayungon, Oriental Negros 6210	Jefferson V. Pia, 28 years old [illegible] Mandaue City 6014
Eldrin E. Claveria, 19 years old 513 Lucao District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan	Apolo A. Olegario, 36 years old 14 Burgos St., Mangaldan, Pangasinan 2413	Ray C. Edica, 23 years old 133 Brgy. 57 White Lane Real St., Tacloban City	Lucila D. Quiño, 42 years old Balide Road, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur
Eduardo Crisolo, 52 years old Brgy. Olorgasay, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur	Ernesto C. Olino, 56 years old 19 de Guzman St., Central West, Bauang, La Union	Glenn P. Eglory, 33 years old Suarez, Iligan City	Karol Jahan T. Sogolli, 27 years old Blk. 5 Lot 1 Central Plain Vill. Quirino Ave., Tres de Mayo, Digos City
Oleto A. de Guzman, 67 years old 334 Sapang, Jaen, Nueva Ecija	Saturnino C. Opiala, 53 years old Zone I Brgy. [illegible], Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	Donato A. Galvez, 42 years old Dacutan, Dumangas, Iloilo	Rosano N. Solucio, 42 years old Camino Nuevo-B, Zamboanga City 7000
Rudy G. Dolayson, 45 years old 404 Amber St., Amor Village, Brgy. 31 Southside, Makati City	Eugenia S. Pordan, 56 years old [illegible] Guiang-guiang, Lucena City 4301	Giovanni Gonzales, 48 years old 18 [illegible] St., Kidapawan City, Cotabato	Melchor C. Tabucbin, 52 years old [illegible]
Noel P. Dumasig, 35 years old 43 Simpson St., Gordon Heights, Olongapo City	Buda O. Rafayo, 47 years old Trinidad, Guinobatan, Albay 4503	Leah C. Hernandez, 39 years old Pob. Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte	Eliseo Tandug Jr., 64 years old [illegible] Village, Victorias City, Negros Occidental
Arnold S. Duzon, 29 years old Brgy. PCB 43 Moncada, Tarlac	Erlinda R. Rimando, 65 years old 43 A San Nicolas St., Brgy. 9 Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	Mangan B. Insan, 25 years old Nueva Vida Norte, Carmen, Bohol	Felix Tovas, 36 years old Door #2 RNC Bldg., J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Grace O. Fresnosa, 33 years old Hanawan, Ocampo, Camarines Sur	Genaro L. Roduillo, 40 years old Purok Tama, Antonino, Alicia, Isabela	Jaime T. Lalayoda, 41 years old 216 F Boyani Compound, Burgos St., La Paz, Iloilo City	Mario C. Tia, 20 years old Duica, Bago City, Negros Occidental
Francisca Galuba, 30 years old Km. 4 La Trinidad, Benguet	Marcelino S. Saavedra Jr., 33 years old 307 Tulay, Ibaan, Batangas	Luzminda D. Laurente, 42 years old Purok Neptune, [illegible], Tandag, Surigao del Sur	Evangeline A. Valmeras, 33 years old Suburban Village, [illegible], Bohol
Victoria C. Jose, 40 years old 164 C. Arellano St., Malabon City	Kathleen Rose C. So, 23 years old 608 Pedro [illegible] St., Tondo, Manila	Henry D. Ledesma, 55 years old 178 M.H. del Pilar St., Jaro, Iloilo City	Brigida Vestal, 61 years old P-2A [illegible], Butuan City
Jonathan Loma, 31 years old PBN Phase 3, [illegible], Legazpi City	Hermino Sola Jr., 57 years old 274 J.P. Santillan St., [illegible] Tanza, Cavite	Melody Mae H. Luzano, 19 years old [illegible] Compostela Valley Province	Celso C. Villamor, 51 years old 1051 P. Burgos Ext., Butuan City
Alan A. Lozano, 26 years old Brgy. 1 Jonas, Isabela	Febe Bryan C. Ticar, 26 years old 107 Evangelista St., Santolan, Pasig City	Ruel F. Madarea, 32 years old [illegible]	Alice G. Yaun, 44 years old 56 Purok 3A Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City

(80) 6th Prize – Victorinox Swiss Army Knife

GMA / Luzon		Visayas / Mindanao	
Sarah J. Aguisan, 31 years old 28 A Rodriguez Ave., Brgy. San Roque, Cainta, Rizal	Julio Hebras, 52 years old Zone 1-B [illegible], Naga City	Teospata L. Abunco, 56 years old Sitio [illegible] Brgy. [illegible], Roxas City	Geraldine G. Gonzales, 33 years old [illegible] Zamboanga City
Patrocinia A. Almadres, 65 years old Ayusan Norte, Vigan City	Richard C. Javier, 29 years old Blk. 2 Lot 5 [illegible] Site Homeowners Brgy. [illegible] San Mateo, Rizal	Edwin I. Acosta, 31 years old 95 11-21 Sta. Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City	Roberto C. Guiis, 48 years old Baang, Butuan City
Jocelyn L. Arquion, 30 years old 265 [illegible] St., Sagrada, Iriga City	Marcelo V. Lafuente, 47 years old [illegible], Occidental Mindoro	Joselito M. Agayan, 42 years old P-2 [illegible] Hway, Ozamis City	Lorenzo C. Gulledera, 58 years old Ibabao, Mactan, Lapu-lapu City
Hernando Avenzado, 19 years old [illegible], Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	Liza Y. Layug, 37 years old San Nicolas 2nd, Sasmuan, Pampanga	Dolores R. Abrando, 58 years old Catadman, Manabay P-12, Ozamis City	Norilyn P. Handayar, 32 years old [illegible], Southern Leyte 6612
Victorino C. Balut, 29 years old [illegible], Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur	Amour L. Lucero, 55 years old Purok 5 Calapacuan, Subic, Zambales	Bongina B. Alumisan, 50 years old 37 Bliss Project, N.B. Village, Cotabato City	Raquel S. Hembrador, 23 years old 100 Bayan St., Polomolok, South Cotabato
Edwin C. Blanco, 45 years old 13 Batac, Ilocos Norte	Sambo S. Mantanta, 24 years old 476 San Roque 2, Bago Pagasa, Quezon City	Sani M. Aminulla, 47 years old 63 Sta. Catalina St., Zamboanga City	Rea R. Hingpit, 35 years old [illegible], Loboc, Bohol 6316
Norvin R. Capinyas, 75 years old [illegible], Ligao City	Sesinando M. Mercolino Jr., 57 years old B2L27 N.H.A. [illegible], Tarlac City	Roselo Andrada, 30 years old Brgy. Alibasan, Lapaz, Iloilo City	Jooby L. Jimenez, 24 years old Brgy. Cagay, Roxas City
Jowyluno Capelo, 41 years old 431 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City	Lorna B. Mayango, 50 years old 47 New Lucban, Baguio City	Crescencio Antipolo, 64 years old Purok 5, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur	Servando Jumawid Jr., 37 years old Lindaville Subd., Phase 2, Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Melegen T. Carreon, 24 years old 5 Purok 8 David St., Rosario, Santiago, Isabela City	Nelson B. Pachica, 24 years old Brgy. Kaong, Silang, Cavite	Alex M. Aranda, 52 years old 125 Compania St., Molo, Iloilo City 5000	Marlas B. Loquimon, 30 years old [illegible], Sibulan, Negros Oriental 6201
Renato M. Cayabyab, 50 years old 78 San Cristobal, Calamba City, Laguna	Pamela S. Pastoral, 26 years old Brgy. 1 Poblacion, Gasan, Marinduque	Melanie Amada, 19 years old [illegible] Subd., Panabo City, Davao del Norte	Diosdado M. Maglibay, 43 years old Purok 8, Brgy. 18, Obrero [illegible] Subd., Blk. 10 Butuan City
Edgar P. Consolacion, 40 years old City Government Employee G.S.D. Office, Calamba, Laguna	Alvin S. Patilla, 22 years old 131 [illegible], Mangaldan, Pangasinan	Marlyn H. Avanzado, 34 years old Purok 15, [illegible], South Cotabato	Arnulfo A. Paraguya, 56 years old North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon 8714
Domingo E. Curativo, 57 years old Zone 5 San Antonio Pob., Nabua, Camarines Sur	Jorwin D. Ramos, 18 years old B3L1 Phase 2 Beverly Hills Subd., [illegible], Cauayan City	Vicente E. Baluntang, 57 years old P-48 Tinaga, Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur	Raquel T. Pepito, 38 years old Purok 15 New Visayas, Tadeco Rd., Panabo City
Norberto Onsoco, 55 years old Brgy. 19 Cabagnon, Legaspi City	Jaime M. Rinconada, 47 years old 55 [illegible] St., Batasan Hills, Quezon City	Giovanni A. Bayo, 30 years old [illegible], La Libertad, Negros Oriental 621-	Ernesto Rapada, 69 years old [illegible], Tabonok, Talisay, Cebu City
Zenaida del Rosario, 42 years old 589 Sto. Domingo 2, Capas, Tarlac	Lydia D. Teo, 44 years old 17 Zone 6 Lingsat, San Fernando City, La Union	Sonia A. Bolby, 51 years old 99 Aurora Quezon St., Davao City	Minerva I. Segun, 61 years old [illegible], Bacolod City
Ranier Domingo, 27 years old 337 Ma. Teresa Ext., Cabanatuan City 3100	Arturo Robert N. Torres, 53 years old 53 San Isidro Village, Virac, Catanduanes	Arsenio P. Cagalitan, 33 years old [illegible], Isabel, Leyte	Alex Sumpay, 20 years old Yulo's Park, Brgy. 14, Bacolod City
Federico Fogiran, 72 years old T.M. Kalaw St., Lipa City, Batangas	Myrna E. Tuca, 40 years old La Concha Billiard Hall, Quezon St., Masbate City	Ruben L. Canonero, 45 years old Zone 3-B del Carmen, Iligan City	Orlando S. Tan, 53 years old Purok 34 [illegible] Village, Calinan, Davao City
[illegible] V. Gacias, 20 years old [illegible], Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley Region 2	Olivia C. Valencia, 56 years old Blk. 1 Lot 60 Mabolo St., [illegible] Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mary Grace A. Cordova, 40 years old 335 Mabolo St., Villamonte, Bacolod City	Lisa E. Talon, 52 years old Philam Plans Inc., Lacson St., Bacolod City
Ruby F. Gacos, 35 years old 24 Rizal St., Central Bulusan, Sorsogon City	Fe C. Vicmundo, 47 years old Magsaysay, Saguday, Quirino	Tita Luz L. Dacorn, 41 years old Plaridel, Baybay, Leyte	Lewis L. Tanano, 30 years old Dapdap, Tangalan, Aklan
Hermis N. Gimat, 37 years old 140 Panalaban, Pulilan, Bulacan	Antonio R. Villadolid, 42 years old B 12 L 34 Acacia Park Homes, Brgy. [illegible], Calamba City, Laguna	Rodolfo D. Delono, 57 years old Dacutan, Dumangas, Iloilo City	Angela G. Tornilba, 40 years old P-7 [illegible], Butuan City, Agusan del Norte 8600
Robert J. Galindon, 44 years old E.E. Rodriguez Hiway, San Jose, Montalban, Rizal	Lucinda U. Viray, 43 years old 57 Purok Callosa, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	Fe Galgo, 51 years old [illegible] Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte	Gemma Villarojo, 36 years old Malbang, Maasim, Sarangani Province

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dallas still hot at home

DALLAS—DIRK NOWITZKI SANK an 18-footer with one second left in overtime to complete a frantic comeback for the Dallas Mavericks over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday.

Nowitzki had 32 points for the Mavs, who charged back from a 24-point deficit in the second half to record a 115-113 win, their franchise-record 14th consecutive home-court victory.

"We've been down before," Nowitzki told reporters after the game. "With the shooters we have, anything is possible."

Jason Terry scored 27 points to help Dallas to its second largest comeback victory in franchise history. The Mavericks came from 25 down to defeat Denver in 1994. *Reuters*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Milwaukee 99, Atlanta 89; Washington 110, New York 89; Philadelphia 108, Chicago 102; Miami 115, Seattle 106; San Antonio 92, Golden State 75; New Orleans 100, Utah 95; Phoenix 136, Charlotte 121

Love brings drama to match play golf

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—DAVIS LOVE III RETURNED to the Match Play Championship final for the second time in three years, riding the momentum of a dramatic 18th-hole eagle in the quarterfinals Saturday into the title match.

Love holed out for eagle from 111 yards on the 18th hole to beat Padraig Harrington in the quarterfinals 1-up Saturday morning, then buried Zach Johnson in the afternoon with six birdies on his way to a 4-and-2 victory.

Love will play the 36-hole championship match against Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, who won his fourth straight match in extra holes in the quarterfinals, then had an easy time in beating Tom Lehman in the semifinals, 4 and 3.

Love reached the semifinals in 2000 before he was beaten by Tiger Woods. He reached the final two years ago, then lost again to Woods in a match marred by a heckler who kept saying "No Love" as Woods was pulling away. Woods was eliminated from this year's tournament on Friday.

"It's always better not to run up against the world No. 1," Love said. "But Geoff Ogilvy is playing great. I'm not wishing Tiger was here; I'd love to play him again, though."

Ogilvy birdied the last hole in the quarterfinals to go overtime with David Howell of England, then made a 20-foot birdie on the 19th hole to set a record in the Accenture Match Play Championship with his fourth consecutive victory that went extra holes.

LOVE moves on. AP

He beat Lehman on the 15th green with his best golf of the week, although Ogilvy goes into the championship match having already played 95 holes at La Costa Resort—the most of any finalist in the eight-year history.

"There's someone on my side this week," Ogilvy said. "I've dodged a few bullets."

Love shot 68 in the morning and was 6 under through 16 holes when he finished off Johnson. In the 85 holes he has played in five rounds, he has only been behind on four holes.

He fell quickly behind Johnson, pulled even with a 12-foot birdie at No. 4, then took control on the par-5 eighth. Johnson hit into the water while trying to lay up, but took his drop and stuck the next shot into 5 feet. Love rolled in a 12-foot birdie to win the hole, then hit a 5-iron from the fairway bunker into 25 feet on the ninth and made that to take a 2-up lead into the back nine. *AP*

Germany pulls away in Winter Olympics

TURIN, Italy—Michael Greis won his third biathlon gold medal of these games and Andre Lange piloted the Germany 1 entry to victory in the four-man bobsled Saturday, putting Germany's gold medal count in the Winter Olympics at 11—a leading 29 overall. The United States was sitting in second place with nine gold—25 overall. Austria's skiers were enjoying themselves Saturday on the slopes, with Benjamin Raich leading an Austrian sweep of the medals in the slalom. Apolo Anton Ohno of the United States won the men's 500 meters on the short track. *AP*

Jun B basketball czar?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

YES, WHY NOT?

According to retired Col. Buddy Andrada, a veteran Philippine Olympic Committee and tennis official, Jun Bernardino, a former Philippine Basketball Association commissioner, is not only highly qualified, but—more importantly—acceptable to most people, a unifying factor that could very well end the unsettling situation in the local basketball scene.

"Bernardino's proven track record will speak for itself. In my view, he's an ideal choice and the most logical person to head the country's new and unified basketball association that is seeking to regain membership in the Fiba (International Basketball Federation)," said Andrada.

Fiba suspended the Philippines after the POC general assembly expelled the Fiba-recognized Basketball Association of the Philippines last year. But Fiba said the Philippines could still regain its membership if and when the five basketball stakeholders (PBA, PBL, UAAP, NCAA and former Sen. Joey Lina, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines) form another cage body and elect a new set of officers on or before March 31, this year. As a result of the BAP expulsion, the Philippine Basketball Federation was formed and, subsequently, applied for POC recognition, which was given overwhelmingly.

Speaking as a longtime POC member, Andrada said it would be best for the POC general assembly not to "rock the boat" unnecessarily by removing the PBF from its roster of members, a stand he shares with outspoken Go Teng Kok of the track and field association, saying it is the POC's legal and moral responsibility to honor its word.

A true-blue sportsman, Jun Bernardino played varsity basketball for the University of the Philippines, counting among his teammates Nic Jorge of Milo-BEST fame. Bernardino made his most distinguished accomplishment as a commissioner of the professional Philippine Basketball Association. At 46, Bernardino became the fifth PBA commissioner in 1994 after working for 12 years under four commissioners before him: Leo Prieto, Mariano Yenko, Rudy Salud and Rey Marquez.

He quit his job as PBA commissioner for health reasons a few years back. But being a certified worker, Bernardino simply would not walk away from sports. Most recently, he launched the widely followed Shakey's Women's Volleyball Circuit. Now pushing 58, Bernardino still has an endless passion for sports, spending time with close friends and associates among them, Moying Martelino, Nic Jorge and Rhea Navarro.

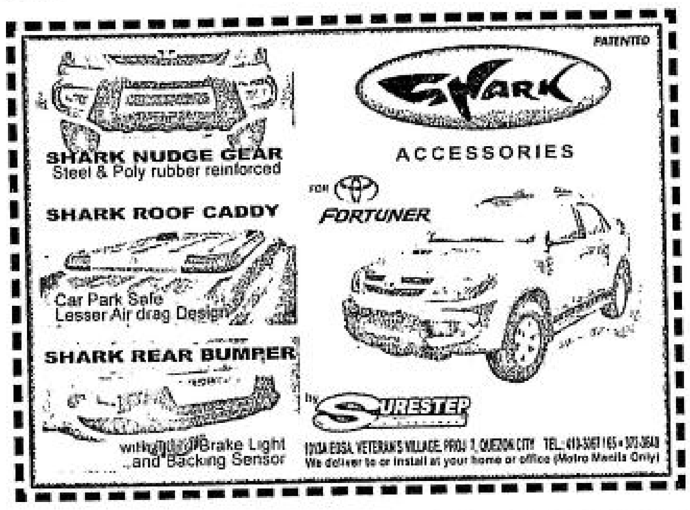
***

CHEERS (a continuation). **Sports patrons Hermie Esguerra and Putch Puyat again dominated the Philippine horse racing scene.**

The owner of super horse Wind Blown, Esguerra recently won his fourth straight "Horse Owner of the Year" award while Puyat, the "godfather" of Philippine billiards, was cited as "Horse Breeder of the Year" by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization. Philtobo president Nonoy Niles presented the awards.

***

What more can I say? Everything has been said about Red Bull's amazing victory in the last San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference, but allow me to give credit, too, to soft-spoken Andy Jao, who was instrumental in bringing over prolific import James Penny.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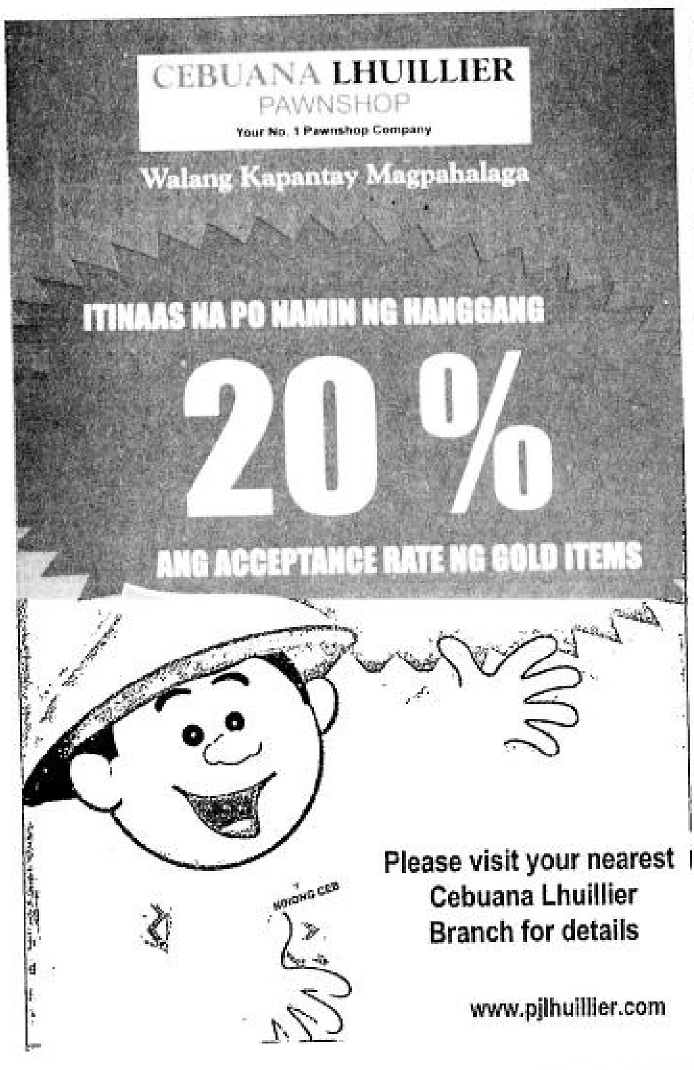
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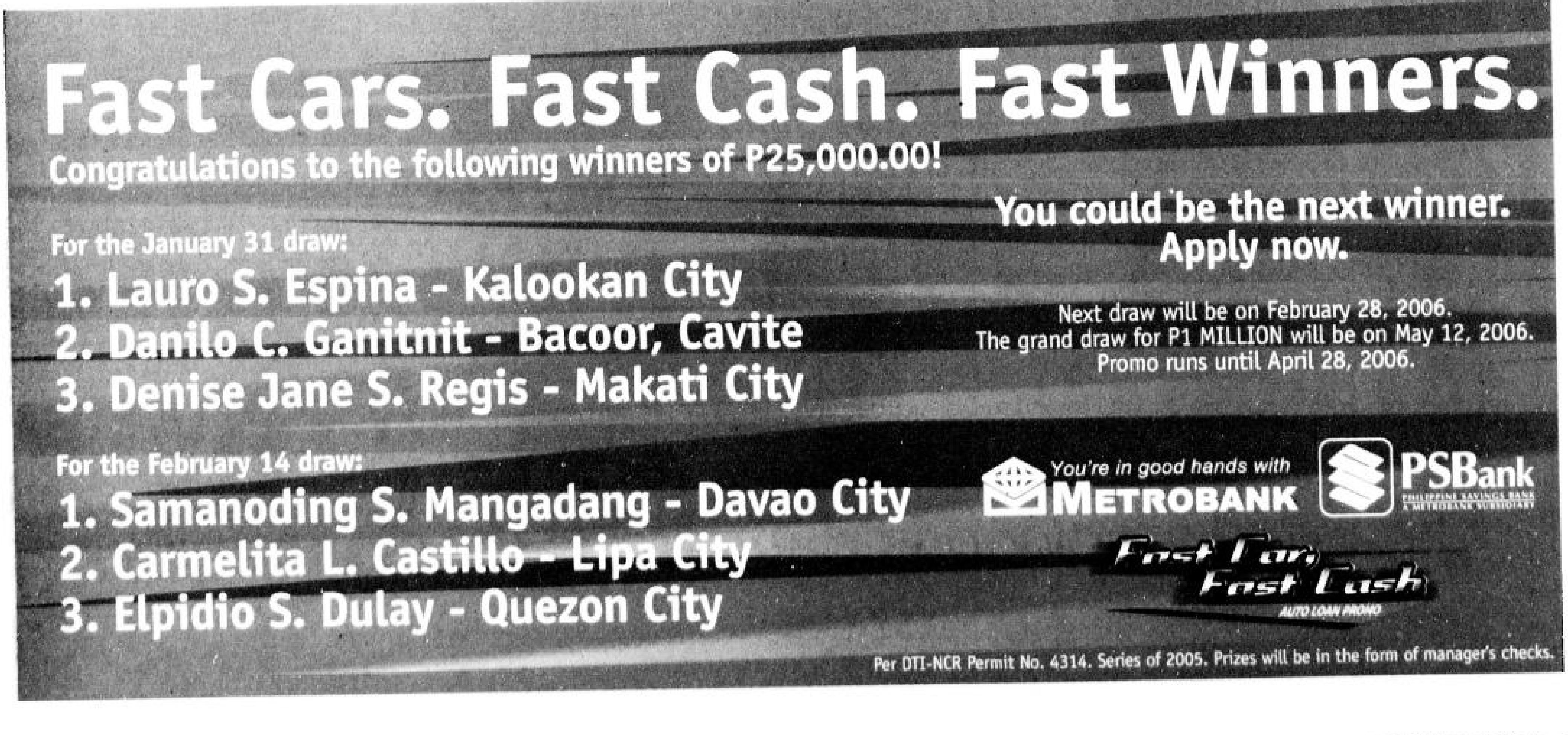
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ENTERTAINMENT

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An alternative to the MMFF

'Digital is the future,' says Cinemalaya competition director Laurice Guillen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE CINEMALAYA Philippine Independent Film Festival was envisioned as an alternative to the Metro Manila Film Festival, according to Laurice Guillen, competition director.

In 2003, Guillen, then chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, participated in the MMFF as a member of the screening committee.

A post-festival evaluation with other participants from the FDCP resulted in a resolution, she said: "Instead of trying to change the MMFF, we decided to put up the kind of festival we wanted, [one] that values quality and the independent spirit."

She teamed up with Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco of the Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc., Nestor Jardin of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Nicanor Tiongson of the University of the Philippines.

AN ALTERNATIVE/ A2-2

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ROUNDUP

GERE

Man of the Year

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Richard Gere donned a pair of glittering gold dancing pumps to earn his pudding pot and crown Friday as Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year.

He also had to put on a blond wig and a white bra decorated with red baubles.

"Richard Gere is one of those actors that's been around for so long that it's kind of only natural that we would give him this kind of award," said Peter Dodd, vice president of HP Theatricals, which honors performers for their lasting contributions. *AP*

Eccentrics

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood stars Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore have signed on to play two eccentric relatives of former US first lady Jacqueline Kennedy who lived in a flea-infested home.

Lange and Barrymore will play a mother and daughter team—Big Edie and Little Edie Bouvier Beale—in "Grey Gardens," Daily Variety said Wednesday.

The women—the aunt and cousin of the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis—spent years living in squalor on their New York estate.

The movie, to be written and directed by Michael Sucsy, is based on the 1976 documentary "Grey Gardens" by David and Albert Maysles. *AFP*

C4P Records

THE CENTER FOR Pop Music Philippines will launch a new recording company, C4P, on March 1 at the Peta Theater Center, Sunny Side Drive, Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

C4P president Butch Albarracin said the company's first recording artist is a group called Centermates, composed of children aged 9 to 11—Carlyn Ocampo, Christelle Peig, Jasmin Salvo, Migs Raymundo and Randell Panganiban.

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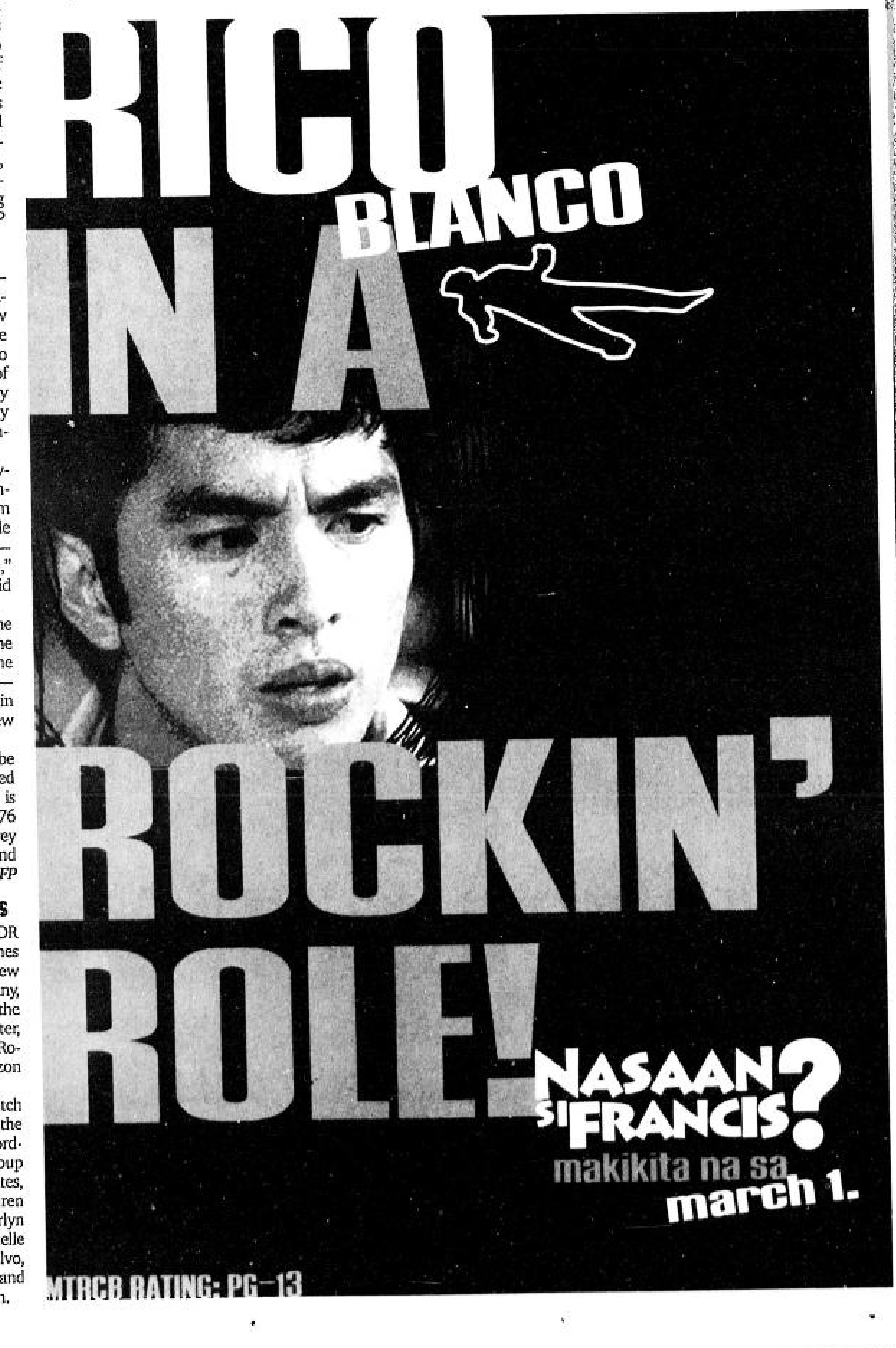
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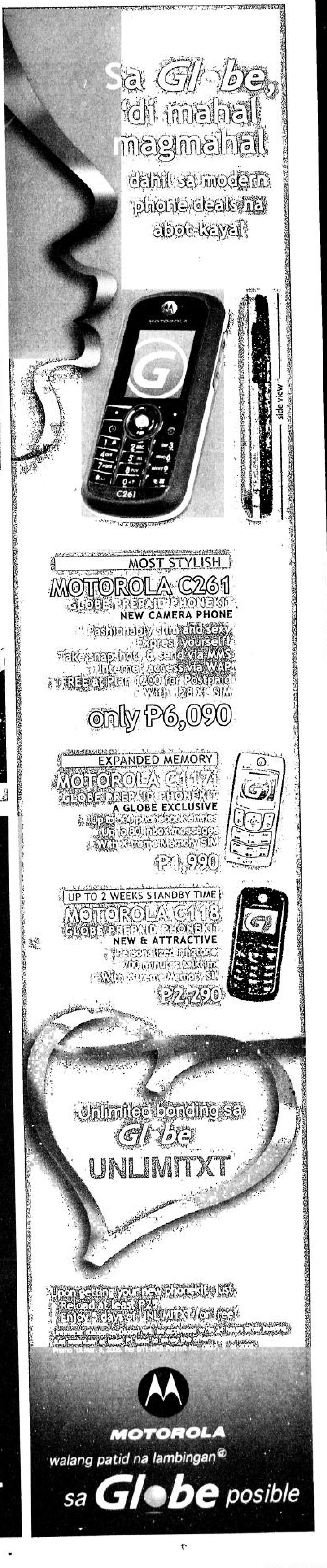
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An alternative to the MMFF

From page A2-1

"Merging our concepts wasn't difficult because we all just wanted to encourage the independent digital film movement in the country," Guillen recounted.

Freedom

As conceptualized, Cinemalaya would be free of commercial considerations, she said. To start with, they decided not to go for a December play date, so they wouldn't have to produce "the usual fantasy, children's and formula films exhibited during the holidays."

Linking with the CCP and UP further ensured freedom.

"As venues, CCP and UP are free from censorship," Guillen pointed out. "As such, Cinemalaya films wouldn't need to go through the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board."

Mainstream support

The organizers don't shun mainstream support, however. For the first Cinemalaya last year, Guillen recruited Seiko producer Robbie Tan "because he's the best hands-on manager I've ever worked with."

As chair of the monitoring committee, Tan helped participating filmmakers finalize casting and secure permits and copyright permission for Tagalog songs in their soundtracks.

Instead of charging P30,000 per song, for instance, Tan's friends in Filscap, Universal and Ivory Records required only P1,500 per song.

Supportive talent managers, like Manny Valera and Ed Instrella, allowed their actors to be cast in Cinemalaya movies. Guillen said this was because they had seen the project's potential.

"Digital is the future," she said.

They were investing in the future.

FEEDBACK

Inhuman

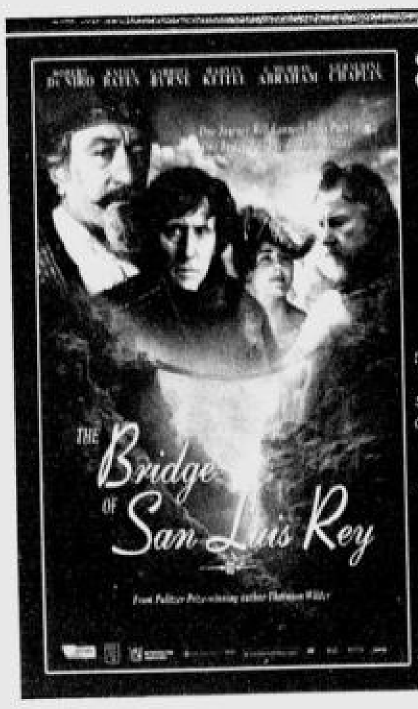
From Dominique Cimafranca (dominique.cimafranca@gmail.com)

I am not a regular TV viewer, preferring instead to read books or surf the Net, but on occasion I do flip through the channels to see what's going on. Yesterday, I had the misfortune of watching a truly execrable scene of deliberate humiliation incompatible with basic human decency.

A young woman, as punishment for some trivial infraction, was ordered to break a raw egg on her own face. This she did. Repeatedly. The others around her watched in smug satisfaction.

This scene, if you don't already know, was played out on GMA's "Extra Challenge: Ang Tagapag-Mana." The program is a serial offender to morals and sensibility. The scene played out yesterday represents a new low in TV history.

Programs like this contribute to the degradation of our morals and the corruption of our psyche.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3	SYRIANA	11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00	R-13
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SYRIANA R13 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20	CLOSE TO YOU GP 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA PG13 11:10,2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:20

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Girls stand out on 'AI'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS OF LAST WEDNESDAY, "AMERICAN IDOL" was down to its 24 finalists, 12 men and 12 women.

Right of the bat, it was clear that the female bets were more promising than their male counterparts.

In fact, all 12 female finalists have something special going for them. Most of them are beautiful, and each female singer has a unique vocal quality all her own.

However, some of them are even better than the already exceptional lot. Based on their recent solo performances in the finals, we're placing our bets for ultimate victory on either **Lisa Tucker** or **Katharine McPhee.**

At only 16, Lisa is the youngest singer in the competition. But she's floored both jurors and viewers with her combination of great singing voice, sultry good looks and poise in performance—very unusual for somebody her age.

For her part, Katharine impresses with her own beauty, exceptional voice, musical intelligence and vivacious commitment to performance.

She sings not just with her voice, but also with her total being, and has musical stardom written all over her future.

On Friday, four finalists—two male, two female—were eliminated. Both Liz and Katharine survived!

What about the guys? Alas, some of them are clearly headed for elimination. We hope that Fil-Am bet **"Sway" Penala** will last longer than most—not just because he's Pinoy, but also because he's the only Asian talent who's made it to the singing tilt's finals this year.

It's likely, however, that this year's "American Idol" will be a female singer—the female bets are simply so much more promising than the men.

Instructively, "American Idol" is now the most popular reality show on US television. This is an impressive achievement, because many other reality programs have been biting the dust this year.

What accounts for "AI's" exceptional popularity? Its plus points include the fact that its search for promising singers is so thorough—literally tens of thousands of talents and non-talents audition for the tilt each year.

That has generated a "grassroots" interest and empathetic involvement that makes many people want to keep track of the competition's progress from week to week.

Those people also like the fact that they decide which talents make it to the "final-final" stage of the competition.

It imbues them with a star-making power that gives them an added surge of "ownership" of the program that makes it a specially emphatic viewing experience for them.

This year, an added viewership boost is the tilt's exceptionally promising batch of female finalists. The competition is extra keen, and that helps explain why the show's ratings are at an all-time high.

'Idol' clashes with Olympics

NEW YORK—"AMERICAN IDOL" DID A NUMber again on the Olympics in terms of viewers Thursday.

With choices that included the culmination of the women's figure-skating competition at the Olympics and three of television's most popular nonfiction shows, an estimated 11 million more people watched TV than normally would on a Thursday night, according to preliminary Nielsen Media Research estimates.

An estimated 25.7 million people watched the Olympics in prime time, the biggest audience for one night of the Turin games so far. Women's figure skating is the most popular winter Olympics event among TV viewers.

While no TV executive would dismiss something that draws that many viewers, it still remains that a once-every-four-years event had a smaller audience than a typical "American Idol" episode.

A special Thursday edition of "Idol" was seen by 23.4 million people—compared to 17.7 million for the Olympics, Nielsen said.

After "Idol" went off the air, the audience improved for the Olympics. *AP*

on its 2nd week!!!

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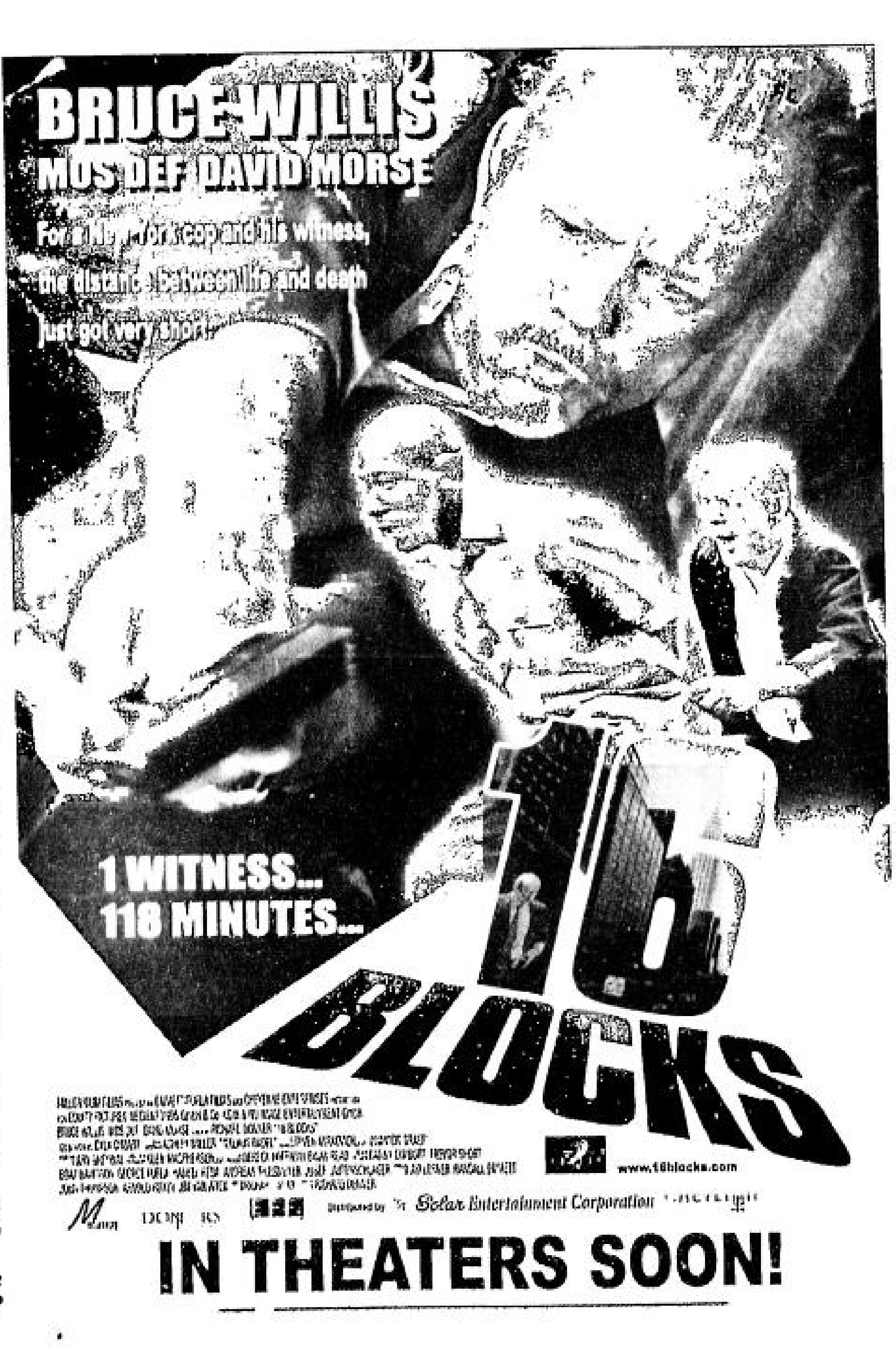
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

THE DARK
BASED ON TRUE EVENTS



BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.

1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...

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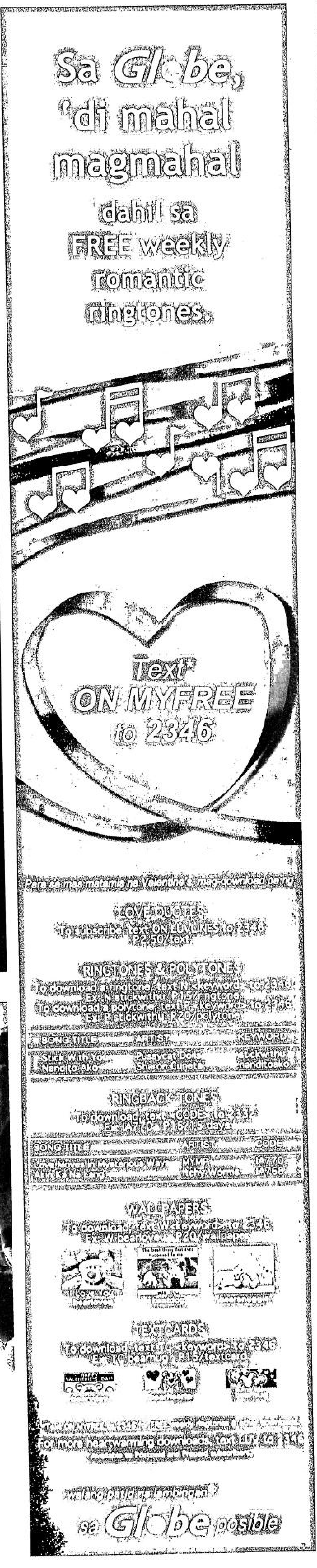

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GALLERIA

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1 SYRIANA • THX
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MURDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 AEON FLUX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 PINK PANTHER
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA

536-7909 to 12

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 MURDER
12:35 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

3 CLOSE TO YOU
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 SYRIANA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 SYRIANA
1:10 3:40 6:10 9:00

3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
11:55 2:55 5:55 9:00

4 AEON FLUX
11:50 1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

7 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

8 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

NOVALICHES

936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 MURDER
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

CITISQUARE MALABON

288-2576

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

687-5378

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 SYRIANA
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

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1 MUNICH
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 GOAL
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 CLOSE TO YOU

LIPA

(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 GOAL
3 MUNICH
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FIREWALL

DASMARIÑAS

(046) 852-2126
(046) 416-4352

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 NEW WORLD
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 SAW 2
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

ANGELES

(045) 892-2348

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

IMUS

(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 AEON FLUX
5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

STARMILLS

(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5278

1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 BLOODRAYNE
6 NEW WORLD

BACOLOD

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(034) 441-0459

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2

ILOILO

(033) 336-8070

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
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6 MUNICH

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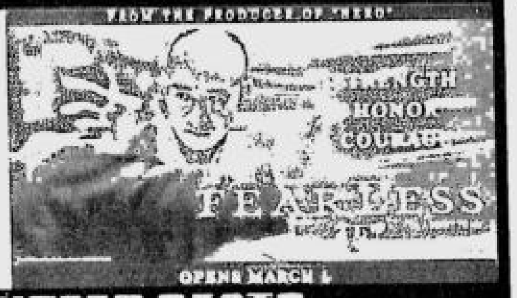

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8978

MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
02:15 FS / 02:40 MF / 05:35
08:00 LFS / 08:40 LMF / 11:05 END

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
02:00 FS / 02:25 MF / 04:35 / 06:45
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:40 END

MEGAMALL

PINK PANTHER

CEBU (032) 231-3076

1 FIREWALL
12:00FS / 12:18 MF / 02:36 / 04:54
07:12 / 09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:25 END

2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:00FS / 11:30 MF / 02:00 / 04:30 / 07:00
09:22 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END

3 AEON FLUX
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
7:30 / 09:22 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
PINK PANTHER
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
RESERVED
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
SYRIANA
AEON FLUX
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
CLOSE TO YOU
FINAL DESTINATION 3
FIREWALL
UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY STA. MESA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
SYRIANA
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
CLOSE TO YOU
PINK PANTHER
AEON FLUX
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
FIREWALL
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY BICUTAN
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
CLOSE TO YOU
FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
PINK PANTHER
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
CLOSE TO YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SAW 2
PINK PANTHER
FIREWALL
AEON FLUX
CLOSE TO YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
SYRIANA
UNDERWORLD 2
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
CLOSE TO YOU
AEON FLUX
SYRIANA
FIREWALL
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
PINK PANTHER
RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
FINAL DESTINATION 3
CLOSE TO YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 AEON FLUX
4 RESERVED
5 PINK PANTHER
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 SYRIANA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY MANILA
FINAL DESTINATION 3
FIREWALL
SAW 2
PINK PANTHER
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
AEON FLUX
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
NEW WORLD
CLOSE TO YOU
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
FIREWALL
SYRIANA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
FINAL DESTINATION 3
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
SYRIANA
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
BLOODRAYNE
PINK PANTHER
NEW WORLD
CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
BLOODRAYNE
THE MAID
CLOSE TO YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
AEON FLUX
PINK PANTHER
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
FIREWALL
PINK PANTHER
FINAL DESTINATION 3
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
AEON FLUX
CLOSE TO YOU
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY STA. ROSA
GOAL
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
CLOSE TO YOU
BLOODRAYNE

SM CITY MARILAO
FIREWALL
CLOSE TO YOU
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
NEW WORLD

SM CITY DASMARINAS
NEW WORLD
CLOSE TO YOU
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY LUCENA
UNDERWORLD 2
CLOSE TO YOU
WHO'S YOUR DADY
WALK THE LINE

SM CITY BATANGAS
FIREWALL
NEW WORLD
GOAL
CLOSE TO YOU

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
FIREWALL
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
AEON FLUX
RUMOR HAS IT
PROOF
BLOODRAYNE
CLOSE TO YOU
PINK PANTHER

SM CITY ILOILO
BLOODRAYNE
RESERVED
UNDERWORLD 2
MUNICH
CLOSE TO YOU
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
RESERVED
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
BLOODRAYNE
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CHEER FACTOR

'Broke' jokes

LOS ANGELES—It began as a simple love story between two gay cowboys that movie critics wondered whether America would embrace.

In three short months, "Brokeback Mountain" not only became an Oscar front-runner but also found its way into US popular culture, inspiring parodies, jokes and cartoons across the spectrum from politics to pop music.

Seen the "Kickback Mountain" poster on the corruption scandal sweeping the US Congress? Laughed at David Letterman's "Top 10 Signs You're a Gay Cowboy" (10) "Your saddle is Versace")? Heard Willie Nelson's "Cowboys are Frequently, Secretly Fond of Each Other"?

Actually seen the movie? Maybe not.

Astonished

"I wish I knew how to quit you" might have become the coolest phrase to throw around during a lovers' tiff but with a mere $72 million US box-office take, "Brokeback" is hardly a blockbuster.

"Many, many more people have told a 'Brokeback Mountain' joke than have seen the movie. It's one of those things that has really transcended itself and gotten way more attention than its box office indicates," said culture expert Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television.

As an astonished Jake Gyllenhaal said this week after winning a British Film Academy award for Best Supporting Actor, "Who would have thought this would happen?"

Irresistible

Those outside the gay community have responded to the movie's universal love theme. But its niche in popular culture owes much to the fact that the story turns the 1950s and 60s Western—a showcase for the manly American cowboy—on its head.

"[It] opens up the floodgates for telling jokes," said Thompson. "Comedians can't resist because we all know what a cowboy movie is and this challenges it."

Two of the shirts worn by the men in the movie sold for $100,000 on the Internet this week. The gay buyer called them "the ruby slippers of our time," referring to the most famous item worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz."

TV hit "American Idol" got in on the act with its own "Brokenote Mountain" spoof.

The New Yorker magazine's cartoonists gave readers "Watch Your Back Mountain" this week. The two protagonists were accident-prone hunter and Vice President Dick Cheney and President George W. Bush. *Jill Serjeant, Reuters*

PAULEEN Luna and Mark Herras

Images at the expense of words

From page A2-6

James Blanco in a romance set in Hong Kong.

Being a late afternoon show, "Flight 143" apparently has a smaller budget than "Encantadia," and a smaller cast as well. The sound is inconsistent, even inaudible at times, and the show seems to have been shot with available light. But when you have Disneyland and a captivating city twinkling behind your actors, how important is it to add another layer of gloss via artificial light?

Produced and directed by Kitchie Benedicto, "Hongkong Flight 143" is serviceable enough for less demanding afternoon viewing, but its occasional use of Looney Tune-ish sound effects makes you wonder if the show's creators have a specific target audience in mind, or if they're in fact targetting everybody. The time slot is one for very young children and housewives, but the casting seems to be for teens and twentysomethings.

The script is paper thin. Nothing remarkable or original happens. The plot seems to exist only to get its characters to visit as many tourist spots as possible. After two episodes, the three main characters who presumably will become a love triangle, haven't even met. If the objective is to make viewers want to visit Hong Kong, then it's successful.

Bigger, better

"Encantadia," on the other hand, has a thicker script and a much bigger cast. And though it is shot only in and around Metro Manila, it's way ahead of "Flight 143" in terms of visual impact.

Compared to the first season of "Encantadia" and its sequel, "Etheria," this new incarnation has more expansive sets and more polished visual effects. Expectedly so, since "Encantadia" is one of the jewels of GMA's prime time programming.

But alas, the show also suffers from the same *gaya-gaya* syndrome that plagued the first show, which had a look and tone that borrowed heavily from the "Lord Of The Rings."

The current peg seems to be "The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe."

Lapses in logic mar some of the fight scenes. For instance, why must the heroines go through the motions of laboriously fighting off attackers with heavy swords, when they can knock them out with the powerful balls of light and energy that they shoot out of their hands?

Plus, the show presumes that you've seen all the previous incarnations and can therefore follow the storyline. If you haven't, all you're liable to pick up is that peace has reigned in the kingdom for several years, but there are signs that a war is brewing with new enemies. Creator and director Mark Reyes is obviously going for the epic serial quality of the "Lord Of The Rings" and "Star Wars" movies, but it was easy to catch up with what you missed in those films by buying or renting the videos. Because "Encantadia," airs weeknights from Monday to Friday, it's easy to get lost in the narrative when you've missed an episode or two.

> Lots of eye candy but short on narrative

Both "Encantadia" and "Hongkong Flight 143" generously provide televiewers with lots of free eye candy. If only they were as generous with the quality of the scripts!

6TH 'CINDERELLA LOVE STORY' DAY!
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GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
FINAL DESTINATION 3 12.50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
FIREWALL 1:30 / 4.20 / 7:10 / 9:50
PINK PANTHER 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
MEMORIES OF A GEISHA 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
SYRIANA 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
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1 CLOSE TO YOU 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
3 MEMORIES OF A GEISHA 12:15 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:56
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
5 SYRIANA 12:05 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35
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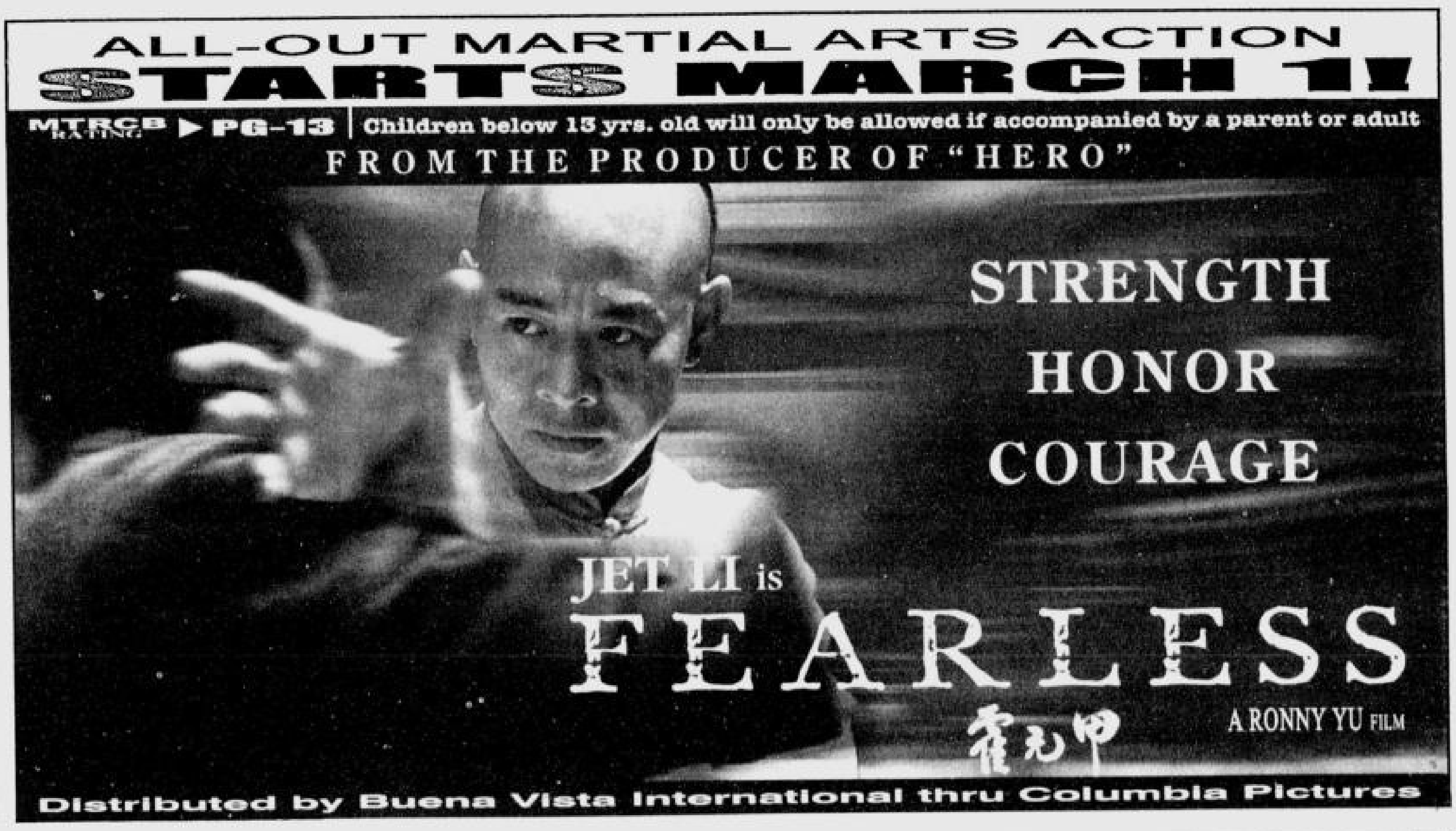

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, February 27, 2006

Find out who will be the next...
American Idol
ON YOUR IDOL NETWORK ABC Iba Tayo!
Wednesday & Thursday 10PM

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

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Channel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		Squid		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Records				Big News	Fear Factor		Yoloo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		OK Fine Whatever			Insider
AXN		SWAT Police			Worst Case Scenario		E Buzz	Lost		Numb3rs (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The 4400 (Season 2)		Las Vegas		Las Vegas	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Mutya Ng Pasig				Kahit Kailan				Cool Dudes				Nasaan Ang Puso?				Makamandag Na Bala	
Cinemax		The Incredible Mr Limpet			Feeling Minnesota				Buffalo Soldiers			Cradle 2 The Grave			Ordinary Decent Criminal			Beyond Betrayal (11:10PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		Submarine Hidden Hunter		Monster Garage		Superweapons Of The Ancient World		I Survived		Wild Discovery		Japan's War In Colour		How Techies Changed The World With William Shatner		I Shouldn't Be Alive		New Detectives	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Trick Shot Magic NY, USA		World Pool Masters '02 Semi		Winter X Games Classic		Extreme Programming Sports Mania		In The Driver's Seat	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Intl. Challenge		Table Tennis '04 Invitational C'ships	Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball Duke Vs Georgia Tech				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Project Runway		Change of Heart	Eliminidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Joan Of Arcadia	
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Threshold Of Hope		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Defending Life	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Fox Report Sunday		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royal Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace/Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Child Of Our Time		Category 6: Day Of Destruction			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		In Love And War			McLeod's Daughters IV (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:25PM)
HBO		Any Which Way You Can				The Buried Secret Of M Night Shyamalan				White Chicks (7:15 PM)				Seed Of Chucky			Live Nude Girls		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Songs	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		X-Men Evolution	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra Jackie Collins Presents: Hitched In Hollywood		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	How Do I Look	
MTV Philippines	Rockola	Oasis Live Showcase	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Fiesta	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten			Mobile MYX Top Picks	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backstage	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Hidden Worlds		Dangerous Encounters		Wildlife Diary	Totally Wild	Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Treasure Fleet: The Adventures Of Zheng He		Hamlets, A Song In The Tale	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	[illegible]	Tayo ng Bayan [illegible]				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K.	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Alabang Girls				[illegible]				Bakit Bughaw Ang Langit				[illegible]				Room For Rent
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		[illegible] Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit	H3O Hataw [illegible]		News On Q	[illegible]		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Global Window				Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Cargo For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		WTA 2005 Philadelphia SF				Greatest Classics				Sagupaan		[illegible]					Sportsdesk	Denmark Open Mixed Doubles Finals	
Sports Plus					Golf Today	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Arena Football League						Chrysler Classic of Tucson Final			
Star Movies		Jagged Edge (3:05 PM)				The Next Karate Kid (5:25 PM)			Terminator 2 Judgement Day					Dead Man Walking				The Forgotten (11:05 PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	Frasier (Series 8)		Monk (Series 4)		Friends (Series 10)	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster						Get Backers	[illegible]	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Charmed (8:20 PM)	Lost (9:10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

REVIEW

Images at the expense of words

By **Paul Daza**, *Contributor*

IT'S VERY FASHIONABLE TO BLAME THE perceived near-death of the local movie industry on video piracy, but maybe some of the "blame" should go to our TV shows, whose production values have improved tremendously in recent years.

Case in point, two new shows which premiered on GMA Network last Monday—the late afternoon love story "Hongkong Flight 143" and prime time's "Encantadia: Pag-Ibig Hanggang Wakas," a sequel to the groundbreaking *telefantasya*. Both shows give viewers plenty to gawk at aside from the stars. "Flight 143" runs daily for only two weeks, and stars young stars Mark Herras, Pauleen Luna, and

IMAGES/ A2-5

ELLA Guevarra is "Sandra" in Encantadia.

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PINK PANTHER
MTRCB : GP
1:00, 3.10, 5.20

2 BIG MOMMA's HOUSE 2
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10 00

3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 4 00, 7.00, 10:00

4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
MTRCB R-13
2.15, 4.35, 6.55, 9.15

PREMIERE THEATRE SYRIANA
MTRCB R-13 1 30, 4 20, 7 10, 10 00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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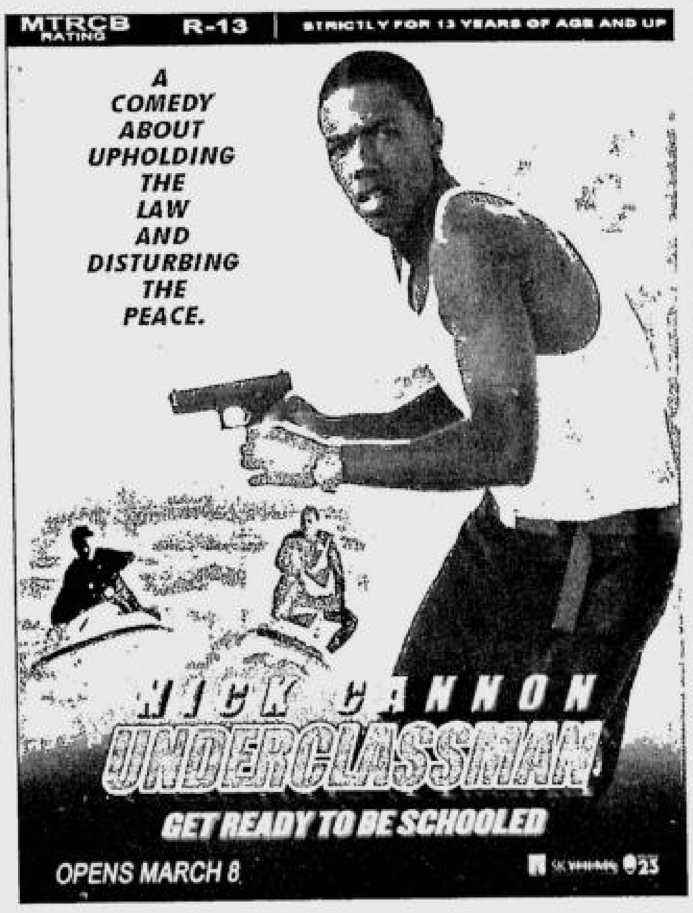

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
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NICK CANNON
UNDERCLASSMAN
GET READY TO BE SCHOOLED
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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

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CINEMA 1 FINAL DESTINATION
11:40, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35
R13

CINEMA 2 SYRIANA
11:00, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25
R13

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 PINK PANTHER
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
GP

CINEMA 4 BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 2
10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
GP

CINEMA 5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
10:40, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
MARCH 3, 2006 JESSA & DINGDONG AVANSADO 9:00PM
MARCH 4, 2006 VINA M., RACHEL A., GENEVA C. 9:00PM

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 CLOSE TO YOU	2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3	4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	3 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 1 30, 4 30, 7 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 PINK PANTHER	5 SYRIANA	6 FINAL DESTINATION	7 CLOSE TO YOU
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FINAL DESTINATION 3	2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SYRIANA 12.50, 3 30, 6 10, 8 50, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11 40, 2 35, 5 30, 8 25, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 AEON FLUX 1:25, 3 20, 5 15, 7 10, 9 05, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1 10, 3 45, 6 20, 8 55, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 12 50, 2 55, 5 00, 7 05, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2		
	3 SYRIANA	4 PINK PANTHER	5 FINAL DESTINATION 3	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	2 RUMOR HAS IT	3 AEON FLUX	4 CLOSE TO YOU
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	2 RUMOR HAS IT		
	3 AEON FLUX	4 CLOSE TO YOU	5 CLOSE TO YOU	

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272: from 10am to 8pm
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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
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GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Rexona for Men Live Extreme February 23, 2006	Baby Looney Tunes In The Bwave Little Hero February 24 to 26, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Child Development Center of Cebu's Commencement Rites Februray 28, 2006	

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Chicago Film Critics Association
Los Angeles Film Critics Association
Independent Spirit Awards
Washington D.C. Area Film Critics
Boston Society of Film Critics
Utah Film Critics Association
Florida Film Critics Association
National Board Review
San Diego Film Critics

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Baby Looney Tunes
Bwave Little Hero
Live Musical Show

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Glorietta Activity Center
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Feb 18, 1pm & 6pm
Feb 19, 11am, 3pm & 6pm

ALABANG TOWN
Activity Center
Feb 24, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 25, 11am, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 26, 3pm & 6pm

MARKET! MARKET!
Activity Center
March 1, 3pm & 6pm
March 2, 3pm & 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Activity Center
March 4, 11am, 3pm & 6pm
March 5, 11am, 3pm & 6pm

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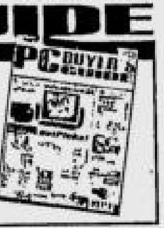


Banks' bad loans shrink to 8-year low

SPV law extension to trim soured assets further

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD LOAN RATIO of Philippine commercial banks shrunk to an eight-year low of 8.51 percent as of end-2005 from 12.72 percent a year ago as banks unloaded soured assets in bulk using the Special Purpose Vehicle mode.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the end-December non-performing loan (NPL) ratio further eased from 8.76 percent in end-November.

The decline for the month of December alone was made possible by the 2.7-percent slowdown in NPLs and a marginal 0.2 percent expansion in total loan portfolio.

As banks moved to trim down problem loans, total NPLs went down to P159.8 billion from P164.25 billion in end-November while total loan portfolio inched up to P1.88 trillion from P1.87 trillion.

The banking system's NPL ratio has fallen to a single-digit level in 2005 for the first time since the Asian currency turmoil.

The sector's NPL ratio peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001 but started to ease sharply starting last year as banks availed themselves of the SPV incentives. The SPV framework, which expired last April, allowed banks to clean up about P95 billion in bad assets.

The SPV Law waived some of the taxes and reduced fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. It waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value-added tax and reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

For the whole of 2005, the commercial banking system unloaded P67.2 billion in NPLs to bring down its problem loan burden to P159.8 billion from P227 billion in end-2004. Real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoas) also went down to P194.7 billion from P210 billion.

As such, total non-performing assets—referring to the NPLs and Ropoas combined—fell to P344.96 billion in end-2005 from P430 billion a year ago.

Bankers are lobbying in Congress to revive the SPV Law to speed up the sale of more bad assets. The BSP expects the banking

BANKS'/B2

Customs to issue memo on used-vehicles import ban

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IS SET TO ISSUE a memorandum banning the entry of imported used motor vehicles into the country, a move that will favor domestic car manufacturers who have complained of stiff competition brought by cheap second-hand and imported cars.

The issuance of the Customs memorandum order, to be addressed to customs officials at the various ports nationwide, will be in observance of a recent Supreme Court decision upholding the power of the government to control the entry of imports into the country.

The Supreme Court last week said in a decision that it was not unconstitutional for Malacañang to have issued in December 2002 EO 156, which banned the importation of used vehicles.

The executive order was placed on injunction following an earlier Court of Appeals' decision that said it was unconstitutional.

Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., undersecretary of the Department of Finance, which has oversight functions over the BOC, said Finance and Customs officials would meet today to discuss the details of the memorandum order.

"That should put the judicial ruling in correct perspective," he told reporters in an interview.

A memorandum order addressed to concerned government officials was necessary to implement executive orders and court decisions.

Mendoza said the memorandum order would clarify to customs officials that the ban on the importation of used vehicles, as also stated by the Supreme Court, would not cover

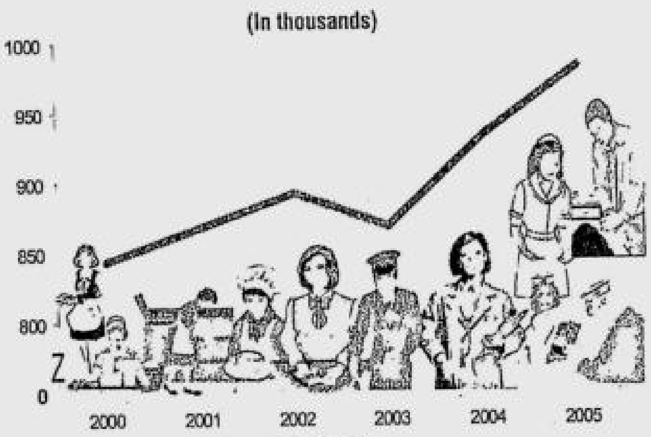
CUSTOMS/B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

More and more Filipinos leave RP

CLOSE to a million Filipinos left last year, an increase of five percent compared to 2004. Choice destinations were, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and United Arab of Emirates.

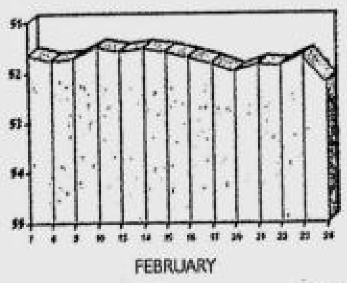


Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Chona B. Galang, PDI Research

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P52.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2006

¥116.62 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2006

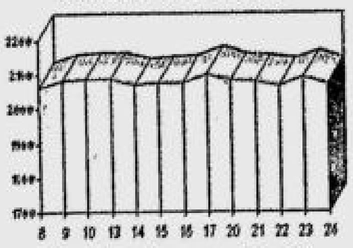
GOLD: $551.90-552.40

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 24, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B7)

CAUTION WILL PREVAIL THIS week as investors continue to watch political events unfurl, analysts said.

Last week, the main index lost 32.2 points or 1.5 percent amid rumors of a thwarted military coup and President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to declare the country under a state of emergency.

"Until we see the political situation normalize in the following days, volatility will be heightened," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at fund manager ING Investment Management.

BPI Trade, in its weekly note to clients, said weighing on the market was selling on Ayala Corp., San Miguel-B shares, First Holdings, SM Investments, Banco de Oro, Meralco, Jollibee and Equitable PCI Bank.

"Investors will closely watch the developments over the weekend to see if the destabilization attempts will intensify. Other concerns would be the possible rise in US interest rates, which may put pressure on local interest rates, and the volatile oil prices due to concerns in Nigeria and Iran.

"Most investors will likely adopt a wait-and-see attitude until the political situation normalizes," BPI Trade said.

But 2TradeAsia.com said seasoned players would likely seize the opportunity to buy favorite stocks.

"Include sectors that provide good hedges in times of political uncertainties. Trade cautiously," 2TradeAsia wrote in its weekly advisory to clients.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Ayala keen on Napocor assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP. HAS expressed interest in joining the privatization of the government's 700-megawatt Tiwi-Makban geothermal assets in Albay, Laguna and Batangas provinces, sources told the INQUIRER.

They said Ayala submitted a letter of intent to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) last year, but has yet to decide whether it would pursue a bid for the power assets.

The Tiwi-Makban complex consists of the 275 megawatt Tiwi power plant in Tiwi, Albay, and the 425.7 megawatt Makban power facility in Laguna and Batangas provinces.

Ayala, whose core business includes banking, property development and telecommunications, announced last year it had formed Michigan Power Inc., a special purpose company that will explore potential investments in the power sector.

Aside from the Tiwi-Makban power assets, Ayala was earlier looking at the privatization of PNOC Energy Development Corp., a subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co.

PNOC-EDC's privatization has lured the likes of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., and Salcon Power Corp., all of which have existing power sector investments.

The Ayala group has no power busi-

AYALA/B2

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Privatizing infrastructure

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Cielito F. Habito

AMONG ITS MOST IMMEDIATE neighbors, the Philippines stands out as having the lowest government capital expenditures as a share of total capital expenditures.

In 2000-2002, the share averaged less than 9 percent for the Philippines, against 16.2 percent for Thailand, 36 percent for Malaysia, and 43 percent for Indonesia. The consequence of this is easily evident to anyone traveling around the region: our infrastructure facilities are largely inferior to that of our neighbors.

Unfortunately, we can't expect much improvement in this ratio for years to come, given government's continuing budget difficulties. Our only recourse, then, if we are to close the infrastructure gap with our neighbors is to intensify the effort of harnessing private sector participation in the provision of public infrastructure.

BOT pioneer

We prided ourselves in the early 1990s in having pioneered the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme of infrastructure provision, particularly with the early passage of the BOT Law.

As the name indicates, the scheme involves having a private firm build the infrastructure facility, operate it for a defined period of time in order to recover its investments and make a reasonable profit, and eventually transfer ownership of the facility to the government.

Other variants like the build-lease-transfer (BLT), build-own-operate (BOO) and others soon emerged.

In a sense, we became "guinea pigs" in this innovative mode of harnessing private funds to build public facilities. As our government drew up the legal framework for these public-private partnerships, there was hardly any experience elsewhere to draw from in setting procedures and contracting arrangements on things like evaluation processes, sharing of risks, and so on.

In fact, other countries looked to our experience and learned from our lessons in drawing up their own BOT legal frameworks.

First-mover disadvantage

Having been the pioneer who had to face a steep learning curve, there should be little surprise that many of our earlier BOT projects, particularly those in the energy sector, ended up being problematic, with the government absorbing a disproportionate amount of the risks involved.

The infamous contracts with the independent power producers (IPPs) are a case in point.

The issues raised on the privatization of water supply, and the "Piatco fiasco" on the still-mothballed international airport terminal also illustrate the weaknesses in the earlier procedural guidelines and policy framework surrounding the privatization of infrastructure.

We have learned numerous lessons from our early experiences with public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure, and we are drawing from these lessons as efforts continue to improve our legal and policy framework on PPPs.

After public consultations in the past year toward revising the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the BOT Law, work is now underway toward amending the law itself to make it responsive to current needs and circumstances.

Balancing objectives

The basic challenge in this work is the inherent tension between our two basic objectives in amending the BOT Law: that of promoting more PPPs (i.e. BOT and similar investments), and that of safeguarding public interest as these projects are put in place and operated.

We need to attract more of these investments, but we also need to avoid the pitfalls of our past experience with PPPs.

Attracting more BOT investments entails three things.

First, proponents would like to see a more streamlined application, evaluation and approval process, which is currently seen to be too cumbersome. Second, private investors want an attractive business arrangement, i.e. adequate returns on investment through ample user fees, tax exemptions, and minimum risks via government guarantees. Third, in the aftermath of the Manila Hotel and Piatco contract reversals, investors want firm assurance that contracts will be enforced and respected.

On the other hand, safeguarding public interest in these deals requires obtaining the infrastructure facility at the least cost and its services at reasonable user fees, and minimizing risks to the government, and consequently, to taxpayers.

Ensuring these requires thorough evaluation of the BOT project proposal and caution in designing the contract between government and the private sector partner.

BOT Authority?

A prominent feature of the emerging draft legislation to amend the BOT Law is the establishment of a separate government agency, a proposed BOT Authority that will be attached directly to the Office of the President.

As envisaged, the agency will handle the promotion, evaluation and approval of BOT projects. On top of that, it is also proposed to be responsible for regulating the BOT facilities once in operation. But as indicated above, there is an inherent contradiction among these functions, and putting them all under the same body raises major questions at the outset.

Technical as it may sound, amending the BOT Law is a matter of critical importance to us all, and merits ample public discussion and careful deliberation.

Questions and comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Ayala keen on Napocor assets

From page B1

ness as yet but is exploring all aspects of this sector, including generation and transmission. The group is also monitoring developments in the yet-to-be-implemented wholesale electricity spot market to prepare for the implications of the electricity bourse on its overall business, if it decides to enter the power industry.

Ayala's planned foray into the power sector is backed by sustained profitability, analysts said.

Martin Español of online broker 2TradeAsia.com wrote in a report that he expected Ayala growing its net income to P8.9 billion this year from P8.2 billion in 2005, backed by the financial performance of its key subsidiaries.

This year, sources said Ayala may spend roughly P40 billion for projects of its subsidiaries. Of the total budget, the lion's share will go to mobile phone provider Globe Telecom at P13-P18 billion and Ayala Land, P16 billion.

Banks' bad loans shrink to 8-year low

From page B1

system to unload another P100 billion in bad assets once the law is extended, trimming the bad loan ratio to about 7.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the ratio of restructured loans to total loans also dropped to 5.25 percent from 6.87 percent a year ago, but 48.7 percent of these restructured loans had turned sour anew.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower some room to breath and chance to revive its business.

Analysts said the high level of restructured loans turning bad again meant a lot of corporate borrowers were forced to accept restructuring deals that were not viable after all.

Customs to issue memo on used-vehicles import ban

From page B1

Subic and other freeports because these are considered outside the Philippines' customs territory.

However, he explained that used vehicle imports may be brought to freeports, but they could not be sold domestically and that they could only be re-exported.

Freeports, especially the one in Subic, was used as a point of entry of used second-hand vehicles, many of which were right-hand drives converted to left-hand and then sold locally.

The entry of cheap, second-hand vehicles into the country had been cited as one of the major problems adversely affecting the competitiveness of vehicle manufacturers operating here.

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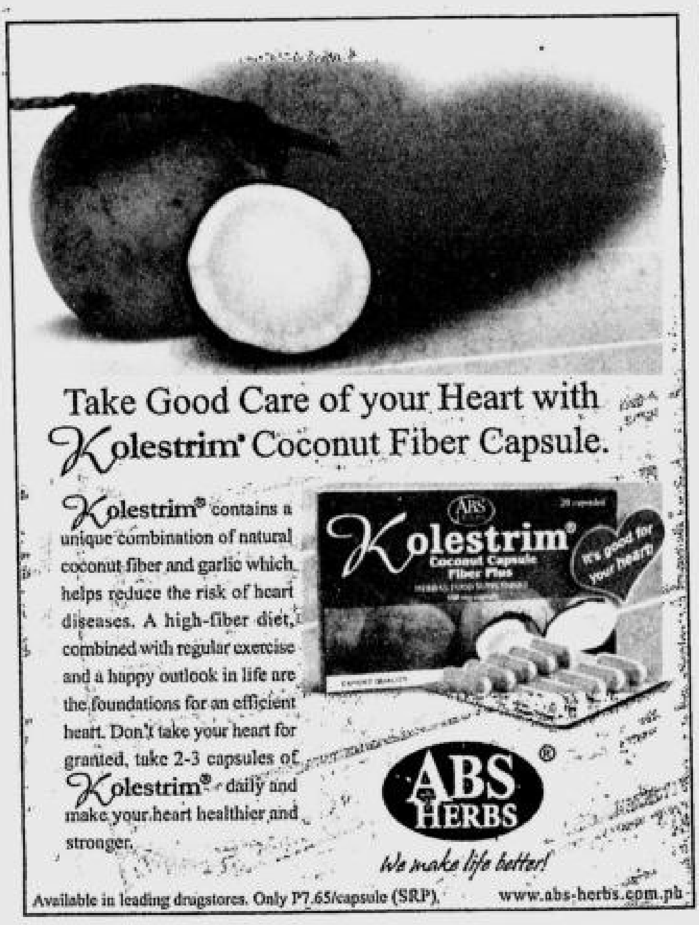

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INTERVIEWING SKILLS
March 21-23, 2006
Mandarin Oriental Hotel
After the seminar, the participants will be able to:
- Plan successful interviews and prepare adequately to ensure a productive interaction
- Organize the flow of an interview from rapport building to setting of objectives and wrapping up
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- Listen actively and objectively and practice interactive listening techniques
- Use note taking techniques that will help them document responses and observation concisely and clearly
- Observe keenly and interpret appropriately non-verbal behaviors of interviewees
- Show the use of appropriate tone of voice, body language and words in conducting interviews
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- Handle difficult interviews and tough interviewees
- Answer questions that are sensitive and complicated
- Spot red flags that can affect decision-making after interviews
- Demonstrate interviewing techniques in role plays and get feedback on their performance

Can you break the barriers in collecting by phone?
DEBT COLLECTION BY TELEPHONE
March 28-30, 2006
Hotel Intercontinental Manila
After the seminar, the participants will be able to:
- Identify areas of customer dissatisfaction that will have a critical impact on the customer's purchase decision
- Demonstrate the importance and value of customer satisfaction
- Make use of creativity and resourcefulness as valuable tools needed in debt collection
- Recognize Indifference from Resignation; Delays from Rejection
- Manifest the positive attitude of an effective debt collector
- Confidently exude the attitude and behavior of an ideal "smart" debt collector
- Accurately plan and prepare for a collection call and make use of various information to their advantage
- Formulate strategies that will appeal to various debtor types
- Maximize communication tools used on the telephone
- Demonstrate and apply effective telephone debt collection skills
- Maximize the use of cooperation and persuasion given the limited communication tools used over the telephone
- Effectively use silence as a psychology tool

Can you read "profit and loss" as easy as ABC?
PRACTICAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
March 28-30, 2006
Mandarin Oriental Hotel
After the seminar, the participants will be able to:
- Appreciate why finance should matter to everyone in the organization
- Understand how finance covers the firm's investing and financing decisions
- Know the basic strategies that are used in making critical working capital decisions
- Learn techniques that will help determine the firm's break-even point for sales
- Discover techniques in managing inventories by ordering the right quantity at the right time
- Uncover their firm's financial performance through the interpretation and analysis of Financial Statements
- Learn techniques to determine the value of their company or business
- Uncover quantitative tools that will help them make "go - no go" decisions regarding long-term projects and investments
- Identify the various alternative sources of long-term funds for the company
- Discover the benefits of leasing as an alternative to debt or equity financing
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One more time.

In our quest for excellence, VITRO has not only secured a BS 7799 certification, we've also received our second ISO 9001. As the only IDC in the country to receive these recognitions, VITRO has once again proven its commitment to employing best practices that are at par with international standards.

Our sincerest congratulations to VITRO Data Center on its successful compliance with BS 7799 Information Security Management standard – one of the globally accepted and adhered standards in comprehensive security management system – as certified by TUV Philippines, Inc., one of the world's leading certification bodies.

This is another feather to VITRO's cap after having earlier achieved its second certification for ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management standard, also from TUV.

VITRO's continuous compliance with ISO 9001 and BS 7799 reflects its firm commitment to employing best practices that are at par with international standards and to helping upgrade the Philippines' ICT industry as the sector gears towards becoming the leading destination for outsourcing services.

By encouraging more IT companies to follow the example of VITRO, we can help strengthen the Philippines' value proposition in offering the country as a preferred destination for regional and global IT operations consolidation, and as a major provider of quality business process outsourcing and call center services.

Once again, our best wishes for continuing success to VITRO Data Center, and to its owner and operator, ePLDT, the ICT arm of the PLDT Group of Companies, as you pursue your thrust to provide the highest level not only of customer satisfaction, but most importantly of service that is conducted within the recognized quality and information management system standards.

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

The Commission on Information and Communications Technology is very much pleased with the news that ePLDT's VITRO Data Center has successfully and satisfactorily complied with the BS 7799 Information Security standard. Achieving compliance with BS 7799 is an extensive and substantial task necessitating the demanding and rigorous implementation of compulsory strategies.

This is a momentous accomplishment for ePLDT as well as the entire ICT industry in the Philippines. What is significant about this feat is that ePLDT solidifies its stature in the global economy as a viable, committed and secure service provider of business solutions, principally for the Business Process Outsourcing and Call Center sectors.

This gives the Philippines a distinctive advantage as we position the country as the preferred destination for global IT outsourcing.

The entire Commission extends its warmest congratulations to ePLDT for this impressive success!

More power and best regards!

DAMIAN DOMINGO O. MAPA
Commissioner, Strategic Business Development
Commission on Information and Communications Technology

It is with pleasure and pride that I congratulate the VITRO Data Center for attaining its first BS 7799 Certification from TUV Philippines.

This certification is proof of VITRO's unwavering commitment to help in building the country's ICT industry, providing world-class products and services to the Filipino consumer/customer. In particular, a certification in Information Security Management standards assures your clients that VITRO is dedicated to employing the best information security practices at par with internationally accepted standards.

I commend the Management and Staff of VITRO for this momentous achievement, and wish all of you the best in your future endeavors.

MANUEL V PANGILINAN
Chairman of the Board
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company

My congratulations to VITRO Data Center for attaining your first BS 7799 Certification from TUV Philippines. I understand VITRO is the first purposely-built data center in the country to have received such a certification.

This achievement attests to your steadfast commitment to continually improve facilities and processes in line with internationally accepted standards. VITRO's certification in Information Security Management standards assures your clients of your dedication to quality and excellence as you employ best practices to ensure the safety of the mission-critical data within VITRO. This remarkable feat also helps us solidify our position in the ICT industry.

We hope that this recognition encourages you to continue improving your facilities and processes, and we look forward to more achievements in the years to come.

Congratulations again to all of you!

NAPOLEON L. NAZARENO
President and CEO
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company

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E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

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Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Smart to change revenue sharing scheme with 3G

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS services provider Smart Communications will make changes in its revenue sharing model with content providers when the company commercializes its 3G services.

Smart made available its first free 3G video call service last week. The service can be used in certain cities nationwide, a pilot test for Smart's 3G launch, although no date has been set for the commercial launch.

Smart's content provisioning and management manager Manny Castillo said in an interview that the carrier is willing to make changes in the 70-30 sharing scheme with content providers in an effort to lower the price of 3G services.

Castillo did not give specific details on new revenue sharing schemes, but said that the plan is to get more content providers to work together to create new and more compelling content that will encourage more people to use Smart's 3G platform.

Castillo also stressed that smaller content providers should work with more established firms to enable them to churn out more and better content.

He added that among the new services that could be expected from 3G are streaming music, video conferencing and mobile TV.

Smart is also planning activities to encourage people to use 3G, one of which is a competition to create short movies using camera-enabled mobile phones.

SOME of the attractions of 3G are video calling and mobile TV. Will broadcast content providers get a better deal with operators this time?

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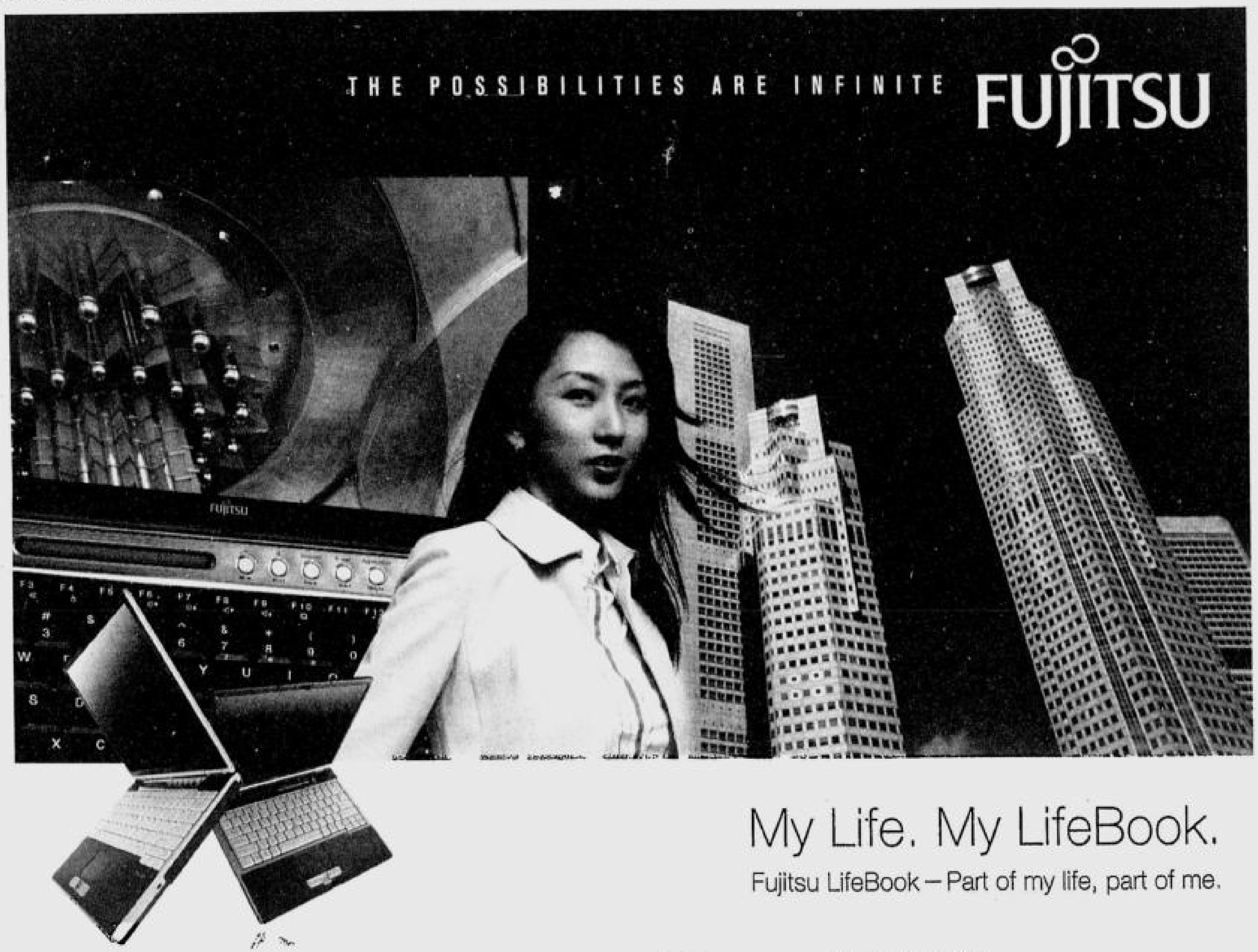
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RP animation industry faces problems with few graduates

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY IS ABOUT to produce 40 animation graduates this year. The university has produced so far 80 animation graduates who have been honed to do actual animation work and production in Philippine and foreign companies.

But the 40 graduates produced by the university represent a miniscule number beside the Philippine animation industry's needs by 2010. The country needs at least 25,000 new animators in five years if it still wants to remain competitive, according to the Animation Council of the Philippines Inc. (Acpi).

Seen as one of the key industries in the country's outsourcing business, the Philippine animation industry has been beset by brain drain for years, steadily losing talents to US-based animation houses and outfits.

While outsourcing jobs abound in the country, it has missed opportunities due to dwindling animation talent pool, Acpi executive director Joy Bacon said.

"The 40 graduates produced by Ateneo de Naga University [are] still not enough," Bacon told Infotech.

Acpi is now trying to encourage more schools to teach animation. Unlike De La Salle College of St. Benilde, few schools have heeded the organization's call so far. The college is now offering diploma or short courses on animation, Bacon said.

Ateneo de Naga University has also been offering a four-year course on animation, according to Fr. Danilo Isidro, chairperson of Department of Digital Arts and Computer Animation of the College of Computer Studies at the university.

Isidro said that Ateneo de Naga decided several years ago to come up with a four-year course on digital arts and computer animation, as it recognized the need to produce more animators for the industry.

"We responded to the emerging trend," he said, noting that Naga is generally a poor region. "So we hope that this would contribute to our thrust in poverty alleviation."

The university's decision to produce animators has not gone unnoticed. Isidro said that its decision has attracted a Manila-based animation house, Geebo Digital, to setup business near the university. Most of the university's graduates end up working in Geebo, Isidro said.

"People had been calling me asking for graduates who can work with them. But I cannot give them anyone because they are all employed by now," Isidro said.

Avoiding e-mail scams

By Jerry Liao

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Strong buy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER you are pro- or anti-GMA, but Friday's unsettling events created stock market opportunities that, assuming that you make the correct calls, you could look to a merry Christmas even before the Holy Week.

This is not wishful thinking.

Except for the bloody coup attempts, the stock market bounced strongly higher right after the country's feckless political elite and the military messiahs take out their frustrations on the streets.

The brokerage firm ATR-Kim Eng, in a weekend advisory to its clients, reached the same conclusion. The Phisix was 8 percent higher a week after the January 1987 rebel takeover of the PTV-4 radio-TV complex.

Even better, an ecstatic market gained 18 percent a week after Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001, ATR-Kim Eng noted.

Despite the Erap forces having reached the gates of Malacañang on Labor Day 2001, the market bounced 4 percent higher a week after the aborted Edsa III.

And notwithstanding the firepower and fire-breathing displayed in the so-called Oakwood mutiny, the market eventually rose back 6 percent higher three months after the military (mis)adventure.

San Miguel conundrum

SAN MIGUEL Corp. issued a one-line explanation in answer to a Bloomberg story raising analysts' fears on the cancellation of last Thursday's earnings briefing by the country's biggest food and drinks complex.

Rather than explain why the briefing had been cancelled, San Miguel simply disclosed that it had been postponed to March 3.

According to the grapevine, there is a simple explanation for the delay. With the spate of recent international acquisitions, the San Miguel audit committee is still trying to reconcile the different financial statements and accounting standards of the now much-enlarged regional conglomerate.

The long and the short of it is that the audit committee thinks it can reconcile the reports by March 3, when the San Miguel board meets.

The audit committee is incidentally headed by new Equitable PCIBank chair Corazon dela Paz.

Behind the news

TOP BusinessWorld editors are actively plotting how to wrest management control from Barbara Locsin, the or-

COCKTALES/ B8

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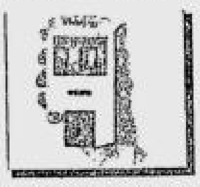
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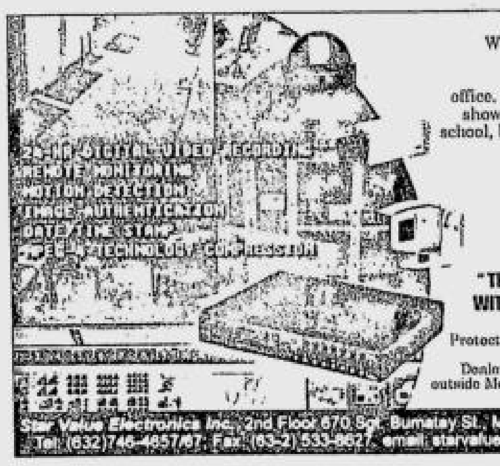
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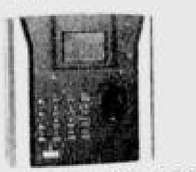
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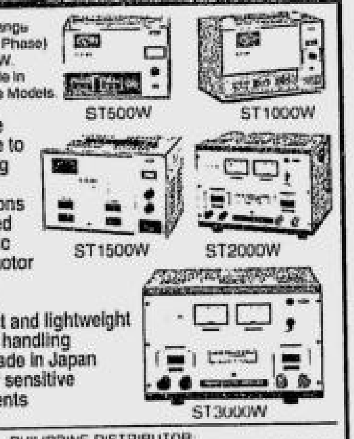
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COMPANY PRESIDENT

Duties : He shall be the Chief Operations Officer of the Company in charge of the day-to-day activities and all operational aspects that deals with the smooth operations of the business of the company. He shall be directly responsible to the Board of Directors on the conduct of business.

Qualifications:

- Pro-active, goal-oriented and can work well under pressure
- Experienced in real estate development and construction for at least 15 years
- Not more than 50 years old
- With MBA or equivalent
- Preferably a Baguio resident

Compensation : Competitive salary plus incentives

Bring complete resumé to:
Realeza Development Corporation
Unit 3-0, EDT Building
Session Road, Baguio City
Tel. #: (074) 446-3223 / 445-0475
Email: tom_panis@yahoo.com

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(ILECO II)
Pototan, Iloilo

INVITATION TO BID

ILECO II IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE FF:

PACKAGE 1
PREPARATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSION, EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) GUIDELINES.

PACKAGE 2
SURVEY, PREPARATION OF PLANS AND PROFILE, BILL OF MATERIALS AND COST ESTIMATE USING THE LATEST PRICE OF THE PROPOSED POTOTAN – JANIUAY 69 KV SUBTRANSMISSION LINE. APPROX. LENGTH (16 TO 20 KM)

Submission of documents and invitation	February 27 - March 14, 2006
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	March 14, 2006, 1:30 PM

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during Prebid Conference.

ILECO II RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

For more information, please contact the PBAC Secretariat at Telefax No. (033) 529-8061 or call PBAC Chairman Mr. Fernando Lasalin at (033) 529-8063 or Cell No. 0920-918-0339 and Engr. Redmond Roquios Cell No. 0918-902-3703

(Sgd.) Fernando Lasalin
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 27, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
for the
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING (AML) PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a two-stage public bidding procedure for the procurement of an AML solution for the **AML System Project**.

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of a fully integrated, **"commercial-off-the-shelf"** AML solution which includes the following components:

- Software application, licences and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middlewares; etc.)
- Hardware components (Database application, report and all other required servers; disaster recovery servers; disk storage; etc.)
- Various technical tools

Furthermore, the AML solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process, that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading to the target database(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities: source to target mapping, data availability and quality assessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool -- Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to facilitate the ETL process.

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the AML solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of ***"As Is"*** processes, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the ***"To Be"*** processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and process such as systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

As per section 5 (p) of IRR-A of RA 9184, the procurement for this Information and Communications Technology (ICT) project is considered as one for goods.

Interested parties may secure the **Eligibility Requirements**, upon signing of the **Confidentiality Agreement**, from **February 27 to March 10, 2006, during regular office hours (between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm**, from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number : +63 2 528-8578
Contact Person : Alan V. Bornas
Head - Technology Management Group
IT-BAC Member
Email Address : itbac@mail.landbank.com

The **Letter of Intent**, the accomplished **Bidder Evaluation Forms (List of Projects and Project Team Information)** and the rest of the **Eligibility Requirements** must be submitted by **March 10, 2006, 3:00 pm**, to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the **Eligibility Check** shall be allowed to participate in the second stage of this two-stage bidding prodecure.

Those eligible bidders whose technical tenders meet the minimum required performance standards shall be notified accordingly and may secure the **Bidding Documents (e.g. Request for Proposal, etc.) from March 23 to 24, 2006, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).** For all these qualified parties, the **Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on March 28, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00 am**, at the aforementioned address.

The **Approved Budget for the Contract is Thirty Five Million Pesos (PhP35,000,000.00, inclusive of all taxes**, which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JOSE CARMELO C. NOGRALES
Executive Vice President
Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI – February 27 & March 6, 2006)

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National Electrification Administration

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GENERAL MANAGER

for

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SOLECO)
Maasin City

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise.
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Maasin City, Southern Leyte.

Starting Salary : P30,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 March 2006.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

(PDI – Feb. 26 & 27, 2006)

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DirectMaidYayaInitCookDriver 7269050

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920

Good Maid Yaya Boy 4214852

Help Agency 5328503 • 5325834

H'WORKING MAIDS 421-3828

NEED MAIDS 4328194

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•Cheap LBahay 9260424

•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 • 372-50-61
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 • 372-50-42

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of **"Various Construction Supplies & Materials."**

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section, NFFTC, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija and NIFTDC, Dagupan City.

Sealed bids will be received and open at the BFAR-Legal Conference Room, Quezon City not later than 2:00 PM on March 20, 2006.

Interested bidder are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Certified Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director

(PDI – February 27, 2006)

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JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of AUG & SEPT. 2005 on March 20, 2006 at 9am. J. Lanuza Auctioneer (PDI - February 27, 2006)

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LICENCED PHARMACIST 7126590 4933693

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Don Carlos, Bukidnon

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section of R A Act No 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that ANTONIO III CASTRO PIZARRO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ANTHONY ROMMEL to ANTONIO III in the birth certificate of ANTONIO III CASTRO PIZARRO who was born on May 19, 1959 at Sta. Cruz, Manila and whose parents are Antonio Jr. A. Pizarro and Resurreccion Castro.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office not later than________

(Sgd.) MELISA R. CAVALIDA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI – Feb. 27 & March 6, 2006)

More Classified Ads on pages A8, A12, A13, 16, A17 & A18.

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI CONDO 2.8M w/ pkg 2BR 2TB 78m² 09178991581

LOT

Pasig 100-3000m² 0917-7938664

MEMORIAL LOT

LOY PQ GARDEN ESTATE P845T 8386645;09164834182

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SUCAT PQUE 8201453 / 7164216

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BUSNES .DOCTOR 524-3197

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1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

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1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112647/48

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1% w/out taking car 5315577

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PERFECTO C. CEBEDO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS WITH SIMULTANEOUS SALE AS PER DOC 194, PAGE 60, BOOK XI SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE ATTY. JOSE PIERAZ NOTARY PUBLIC FOR PASIG
PDI-FEB. 13, 20, 27, 2006

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEPED-MARIKINA CITY OSEC DECSB TCH2 - 36014 TCH1 47566 TCH2 36169 TCH1 47719

OBITUARIES

LOURDES BEATO FERRER

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 23, 2006

She is survived by her loving husband **German**; children **Eymard & Yeyet, Ricci & Sean, Hazel &Tep & Paolo**, grandchildren, sisters & relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Love Chapel, St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006 at The Heritage Memorial Park Crematory after 11 AM Mass.

OBITUARIES

"In my Father's house are the many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also be where I am." – ***John 14:2-4***

Herminia A. Go

(ANG GIOK HUA)

has peacefully passed on to eternal life,
reunited forever with her spouse, Leonardo Go.

Her loving children: **Lionel** and **Becky**; **Adip** and **Bong**; **Apoy** and **Peachy**; **Sette** and **Mon Marquez**; grandchildren: **John** and **Lispeth Go**, **Jean** and **Dennis Luga**, **Joyce Go**, **Jimbo Go**, **Christine** and **Jeremy Greenberg**, **Archie Go**, **Michael Go**, **Brian Marquez**, **Mark Marquez**, **Don Marquez**, and great grandchildren: **Abby** and **Angela Go**, **Diko Luga**, **Max**, **Maya** and **Mimi Greenberg**, and all her relatives and friends request the reader to join them in thanking God for the gift of her life, the grace of a peaceful death surrounded by family and for the hope we all have that she now enjoys the gift of eternal joy in heaven.

Interment will take place at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Tuesday, February 28 after Holy Mass at Don Bosco Chapel (Charity) at 12:15 p.m.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 24, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.36	3.35	3.36	3.36	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	33	33	307,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58	59	1,150,000
China Banking Corp.	635	640	630	630	7,150
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.48	0.48	6,330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63	63	62	63	137,100
International Exch. Bank	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	117,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	32.5	33.5	900,500
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	7,700
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	6,200
Security Bank Corp.	38.5	38.5	37.5	38	23,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	33	33.5	33	33	36,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3210	3210	3210	3210	60
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2150	2150	2150	2150	250
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.75	5,070,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	44.5	2,364,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	40	40.5	1,741,000
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	94,300
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	18.5	18	18	871,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,114,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.4	4.5	6,931,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	49,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20	20	19.75	20	117,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	35	34	34	482,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.55	26,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	324,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	60.5	59.5	60.5	124,000
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	81	78.5	80	66,600
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.75	1,645,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	990,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.16	1.2	17,975,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	490,000
CHEMICALS					
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,020,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,700,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	1,200,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.008	74,000,000
Ayala Corp.	327.5	327.5	317.5	322.5	533,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	397,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.3	1,404,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	110,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.87	0.87	480,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.62	1.42	1.62	124,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.86	2.2	1.86	2.2	39,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	110,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	49,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.94	2,880,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,182,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.62	1.62	624,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.6	4.6	1,213,000
Medco Holdings	0.215	0.22	0.2	0.22	600,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	16,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.215	0.215	5,130,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.95	0.95	8,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	14,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,000,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	216	208	216	599,640
South China Resources Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	190,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	4,410,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.75	9,056,700
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.92	0.92	3,410,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	7,490,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.52	1.52	5,264,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	23,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,250,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	7,280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	4,846,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	2,200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	15,341,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	11,930,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.205	920,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	79,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,900,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	15,321,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	2,130,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	28,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.88	2,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	845	830	840	54,900
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	2,372,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1765	1785	1755	1775	162,740
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	250,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	15,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.025	315,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2	2	2	2	35,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	138,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	1,346,700
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4	4	4	4	270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.62	1.62	4,218,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.35	3,930,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	70,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3	2,142,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1.06	0.99	0.99	221,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.16	520,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	4,144,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.195	0.205	8,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	16,320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	166,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	112,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	5,733,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.68	1.7	12,013,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	280,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.3	300,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.24	4,480,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.007	160,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	40,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.44	570,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	780,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	40,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.25	11.25	11	11	298,200

CURRENCIES

February 26, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.838785	1.000000	51.7700
Japan	Yen	0.007161	0.008537	0.4420
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469804	1.752300	90.7166
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108110	0.128889	6.6726
Switzerland	Franc	0.641077	0.764292	39.5674
Canada	Dollar	0.727670	0.867528	44.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.516271	0.615498	31.8643
Australia	Dollar	0.620220	0.739426	38.2801
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.225781	2.653576	137.3756
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223682	0.266674	13.8057
Brunei	Dollar	0.514687	0.613610	31.7666
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021397	0.025510	1.3207
UAE	Dirham	0.228371	0.272264	14.0951
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.192200	61.7202
Argentina	Peso	0.273220	0.325733	16.8632
Brazil	Real	0.392781	0.468274	24.2425
Denmark	Kroner	0.134053	0.159818	8.2738
India	Rupee	0.018909	0.022543	1.1671
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225905	0.269324	13.9429
Mexico	New Peso	0.080014	0.095393	4.9385
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554202	0.660720	34.2055
Norway	Kroner	0.124461	0.148383	7.6818
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014003	0.016694	0.8642
South Africa	Rand	0.137720	0.164190	8.5001
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.001036	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.106508	0.126979	6.5737
Syria	Pound	0.016158	0.019264	0.9973
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025799	0.030757	1.5923
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0241

Japan firm still interested in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOKUSHUKAI MEDICAL CORP., JAPAN'S biggest health care service firm, is not giving up its plan to set up a branch in the Philippines, although it is also setting its sights on other locations in the region.

The company had been scouting for a possible site for a 1,000-bed hospital since Sept. 2004.

Tokushukai initially considered the Manila Bay reclamation area, but the plan hit a snag as the Philippine Estate Authority said the project could be done only if the company partnered with locals.

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,150,000/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	-	500,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	40,000
Camp John Hay	-	180,000
Canlubang Golf	600,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	-	380,000
Club Filipino	140,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	330,000*	150,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	80,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	250,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	120,000/700,000*	160,000*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods A/B*	350,000/Pls. Call*	300,000/700,000*
Makati Sports Club	180,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	350,000	250,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/180,000*	90,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	180,000/300,000*/400,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	190,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/150,000*/250,000**	130,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	180,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	80,000*
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,350,000*
The Palms Country Club	650,000	380,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	310,000
Tagaytay Highlands	720,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls Call	630,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	140,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,350,000	6,175,000

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Baguio Country Club	520,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	20,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	-
Camp John Hay	250,000	180,000
Canlubang	500,000	480,000
Capitol Hills	60,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,350,000
Celebrity Sports Club	100,000	-
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Evercrest "B"	-	70,000
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,300,000	10,500,000
Manila Polo	-	2,250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	340,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	350,000	300,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	275,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	140,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	125,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	400,000	-
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	190,000	-
Valley Golf	220,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,350,000	6,175,000

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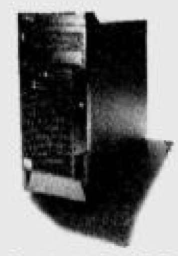

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BDO, LBP keen on funding gov't takeover of Naia-3

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL TYCOON HENRY SY'S BANCO de Oro Universal Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines have joined a consortium that plans to lend as much as $600 million to the government for the acquisition of Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Banking sources said the Development Bank of the Philippines-led consortium, which offered the credit facility to the Manila International Airport Authority, could be further expanded to accommodate interested foreign lenders.

With more banks willing to fund the buyout, the amount of potential credit facility has also increased. The DBP, according to report, was willing to shell out $300-$400 million in loans to MIAA.

The bulk of the loan would be used to pay off Naia 3 builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), which was forced out of the build-operate-contract by the Supreme Court in a ruling issued in May 2003. In its ruling, the court said the deal was "grossly disadvantageous" to the government.

These banks were willing to fund the buyout given the MIAA's strong cash flow from terminal fees, but the deal might not be finalized within the first quarter, the sources said.

Initial negotiations on the credit facility had started but pricing was now the central issue, the sources said.

Contractor Takenaka Corp. which built the terminal said the consortium that built the terminal had spent $290 million but Piatco was claiming the expenses amounted to $650 million.

The government expropriated the Naia 3 facility in December 2003 but has been unable to operate it given a number of pending lawsuits.

Archbishop Cruz on mining

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ OF DAGUPAN complains of the "poisonous dirt" produced by large-scale mining. He echoes the line of the anti-mining lobby that the use of cyanide (actually sodium cyanide) in large-scale mining threatens life and the environment.

Over a few rounds of beer the other night, I had an enjoyable chat with Nonoy Celera Jr., a practicing metallurgist for the past 35 years, and currently the mill manager of a large-scale gold and silver mine in Mindanao. He explained to me the use of sodium cyanide (NaCN) in large-scale mining.

Sodium cyanide is used only in gold mining. Lafayette in Rapu Rapu is a gold and copper mine; sodium cyanide was used in its operations, but not at Marcopper in Marinduque, which was purely a copper mine.

Sodium cyanide is delivered to the mine as flakes or globules in metal drums. In this state, it is highly poisonous. But, in the processing of the gold ore, sodium cyanide is first dissolved in water.

Depending on the characteristics of the ore, the proportion is 250 to 500 parts of sodium per cyanide for every one million parts of water. This solution is so weak you can wash your hands in it without any ill effects (but, of course, you should not drink it). Yet, the solution is strong enough to extract as much as 98 percent of the gold from the ore.

The ore is ground into fine dust in the ball mill. Commercial grade ore contains one gram of gold in every ton, or 1,000 kilos, of ore. The sodium cyanide solution literally leaches the gold out of the ore. All over the world, this is the way gold is extracted from the ore. The process is efficient and safe.

After going through the sodium cyanide solution, the dust becomes waste or tailings. The tailings are what Archbishop Cruz calls the "poisonous dirt." There is very little poison in the dirt.

The tailings are collected in a pond where the sodium cyanide, by its deliquescent nature, absorbs moisture from the air and gradually transforms into nonpoisonous carbon. Even if the tailings spill into a river, the dissolution of the sodium cyanide goes on.

Nonoy said that, in his 35 years as a practicing metallurgist, here and abroad, no one has ever been poisoned by sodium cyanide in large-scale gold mining. The use of sodium cyanide follows strict mathematical and chemical formulas designed to attain maximum operational efficiency and utmost safety to life and property.

These formulas have been designed and field-tested by metallurgists, chemists, engineers, and geologists, who are as God-fearing as any archbishop.

Of course, accidents do happen, some of them out of negligence. In an open-pit mine, 200 hundred thousand tons of rock may be moved every day. In an underground mine, you could be digging several kilometers deep in the earth. But our highways are far more dangerous than large-scale mines.

Sodium cyanide is used in electroplating, fumigating and treating steel. It is used to clean a fishpond of crustaceans before introducing *bangus* fingerlings. It is used to stun and catch all those colorful fishes you see in an aquarium.

Archbishop Cruz cries his heart out for the poor who have been supposedly victimized by large-scale mining. If he is willing, I can bring him to a poor community in Camarines Norte.

The barrio folk there will tell him how eagerly they are waiting for the jobs that will be opened by a gold and copper mine (now in the exploration stage) that will soon operate in the area. Then, I can bring him to the gold and silver mine where Nonoy is the mill manager. There he can chat with 700 barrio folk gainfully employed with generous fringe benefits.

I hear no metals are being mined in Pangasinan. I wonder where Archbishop Cruz got his strong anti-mining views.

May the Holy Spirit fire up Archbishop Cruz to dig deeply into the mining act, the implementing rules, and the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the law. He can ask a sacristan to download these documents from the websites of the Mines Bureau and the Supreme Court.

Then, perhaps, Archbishop Cruz will have his feet planted firmly on the ground and his eyes fixed bravely on the future.

Cocktales

From page B5

phaned daughter of the paper's founding couple, this we have on good authority.

Though theoretically majority-owned by the employees' provident fund, the business daily is controlled, apparently in perpetuity, by the Locsin family.

The paper has lately been hit by key resignations, and even minority owner Iñigo Zobel has long been trying to sell the family stake to almost anyone foolhardy even to think of making money in a shrinking sector.

Money-go-round

- CALTEX (Philippines) Inc. will be known effective March 1 as Chevron Philippines to reflect its US parent company's name. Despite the corporate name change, the gasoline stations and lubricant products will use the "Caltex" brand.
- Megaworld's Andrew Tan is betting that the booming call center industry will be hit by rising real estate rentals in the Ayala area and that is why he is rushing a "competitively priced" call center complex in his McKinley Hills complex in The Fort.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER a brief federal-induced holiday in California due to his Las Vegas problem, former Tourism Secretary Vicente Carlos is now battling a casino collection-related case in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

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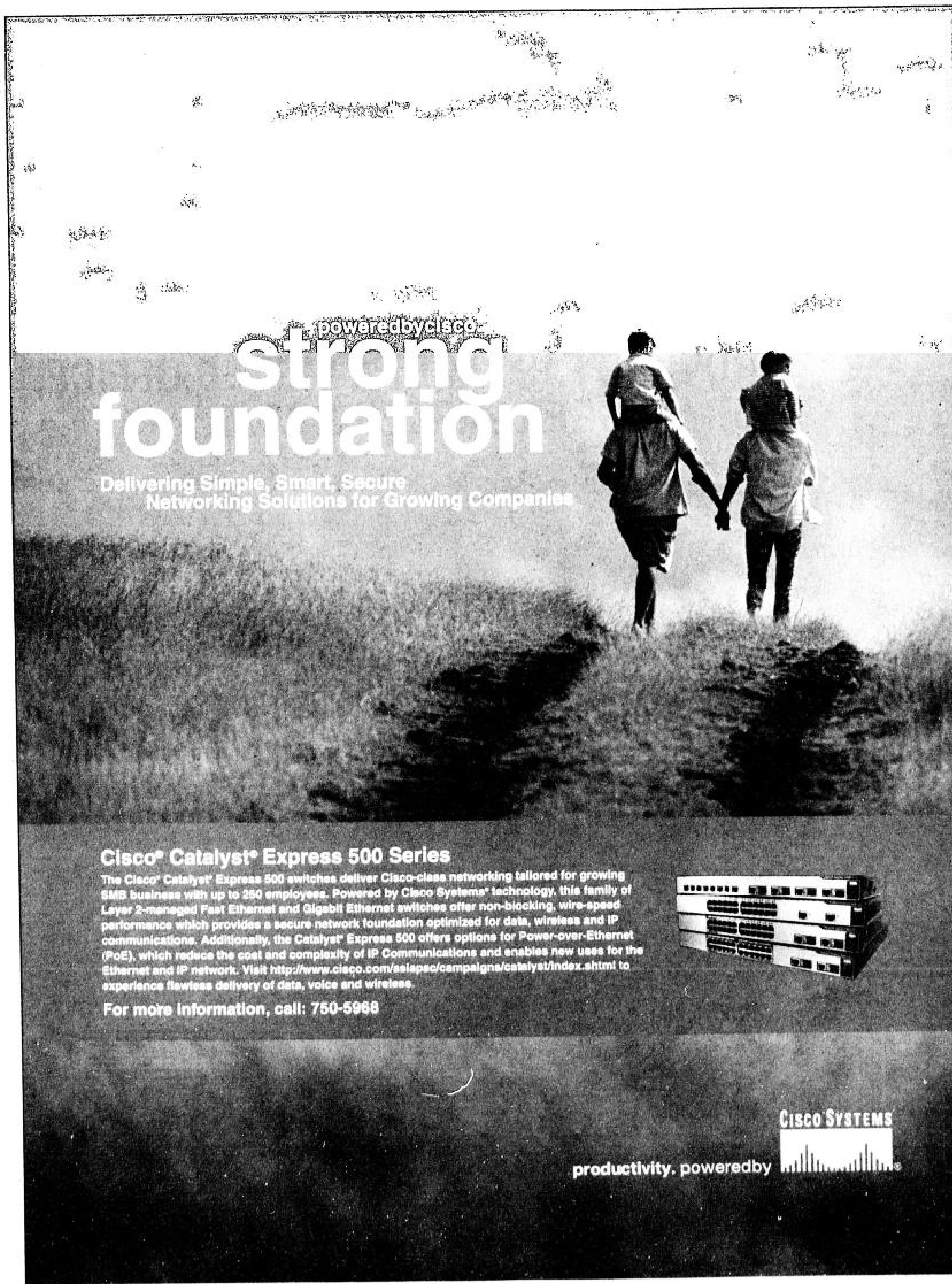
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Abaca export volume jumped by 18% in 2005

ROCKY PICK
Amante Pinzon, 42, fills his cattle-driven cart with minerals he has collected along the coastline of Santo Domingo, Luna, La Union. Pinzon and his 3-year-old son Adrian will then make their way to a nearby town and sell the minerals for P12 a sack.
EV ESPIRITU

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EXPORT VOLUME OF PHILIPPINE ABACA jumped by 18 percent to 22 million metric tons in 2005 as demand for the product throughout Asia significantly grew.

According to the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida), this increase also corresponded to a 21-percent growth in export earnings for local abaca pulp manufacturers last year to $80 million, compared to the $66 million posted the previous year.

Philippine abaca fiber pulp is used for the manufacture of security and currency papers, cigarette filters, meat and tea casings, medical materials, and high-grade non-woven materials.

Fida said that the combined demand in Japan and China grew by 38 percent. The volume of export to Japan jumped to 5.3 million metric tons, while trade with China rose to 464,000 metric tons.

Exports to North America and Europe also went up by 43 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively.

The Philippines is the only country exporting abaca pulp. It is also the biggest exporter of abaca fiber in the world.

German auto makers have approved the use of Philippine abaca fiber for the inner and composite panels of their vehicles.

Fida officials said that the new contracts abroad may prove to be the big break the abaca fiber industry has been looking for over the last 15 years.

But exporters are concerned with the dwindling supply of abaca fiber as the industry has yet to recover from the spate of diseases that affected the plants.

According to the traders, the government has not enough funds to assist abaca planters.

Last year the country's abaca fiber production increased 2 percent to 494,000 bales. Each bale weighs about 125 kilograms.

"There is a growing demand especially for our abaca pulp," said Alberto Fenix Jr., president of NewTech Pulp Inc. "but the local supply has not been sufficient."

Fida Administrator Cecilia Gloria Soriano said production has not hit a high of 1 to 2 million metric tons a year due to the prevalence of diseases.

"The government needs to solve this problem with the private sector," Soriano said.

Transco improves Boracay power services

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) has finished laying down the submarine cable necessary to improve power delivery in the tourist paradise of Boracay.

In a statement issued over the weekend, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said work on the 1.6-kilometer submarine cable was part of the P149-million Panay-Boracay interconnection project.

The cable would connect the state firm's Caticlan cable terminal station with another facility in Manok-Manok, Boracay.

"With more and more tourist facilities rising in our country's premiere tourist destination, Boracay's power demand will rise steeply in the coming years," Ortiz said. "This is why we are doing all we can to complete critical projects like this to meet the growing demand of businesses in the area."

Also, Transco will put up cable terminal stations in Caticlan and Boracay by April.

Under a memorandum of agreement it signed with the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco), Transco would provide the materials and equipment needed for the construction of two new substations and cable terminal stations.

Akelco will likewise build another substation in Boracay near Transco's cable terminal station.

The Panay-Boracay interconnection project is just the first phase of Transco's Small Island Submarine Interconnection Development (Sisid) program.

In this stage of the program, Japanese firm Kanematsu Corp. will establish a two-way electricity highway at the nation's western corridor. This will complete the Luzon-Visayas Transmission Loop.

The next phase of the Sisid program involves the Luzon-Mindoro interconnection project, followed by the Mindoro-Semirara Island-Panay project, and the Boracay-Tablas-Romblon link. *Abigail L. Ho*

Gov't to study use of India plant as fuel

By Abigail L. Ho

IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER ADvance the use of alternative fuels, a government delegation will visit India to look at its program for Jatropha, a plant that can be used as a diesel substitute.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the delegation would study India's Jatropha program to get some insights on how to incorporate the plant to the country's alternative fuels program.

Found in abundance in India, Jatropha curcas, or *tuba-tuba* in Filipino, is already being used there for biodiesel, because of its 37-percent oil content.

According to the official Website of India's Center for Jatropha Promotion, the plant is drought-resistant and can grow well even in poor soil.

It also grows relatively quickly and lives for 50 years, all that time producing seeds.

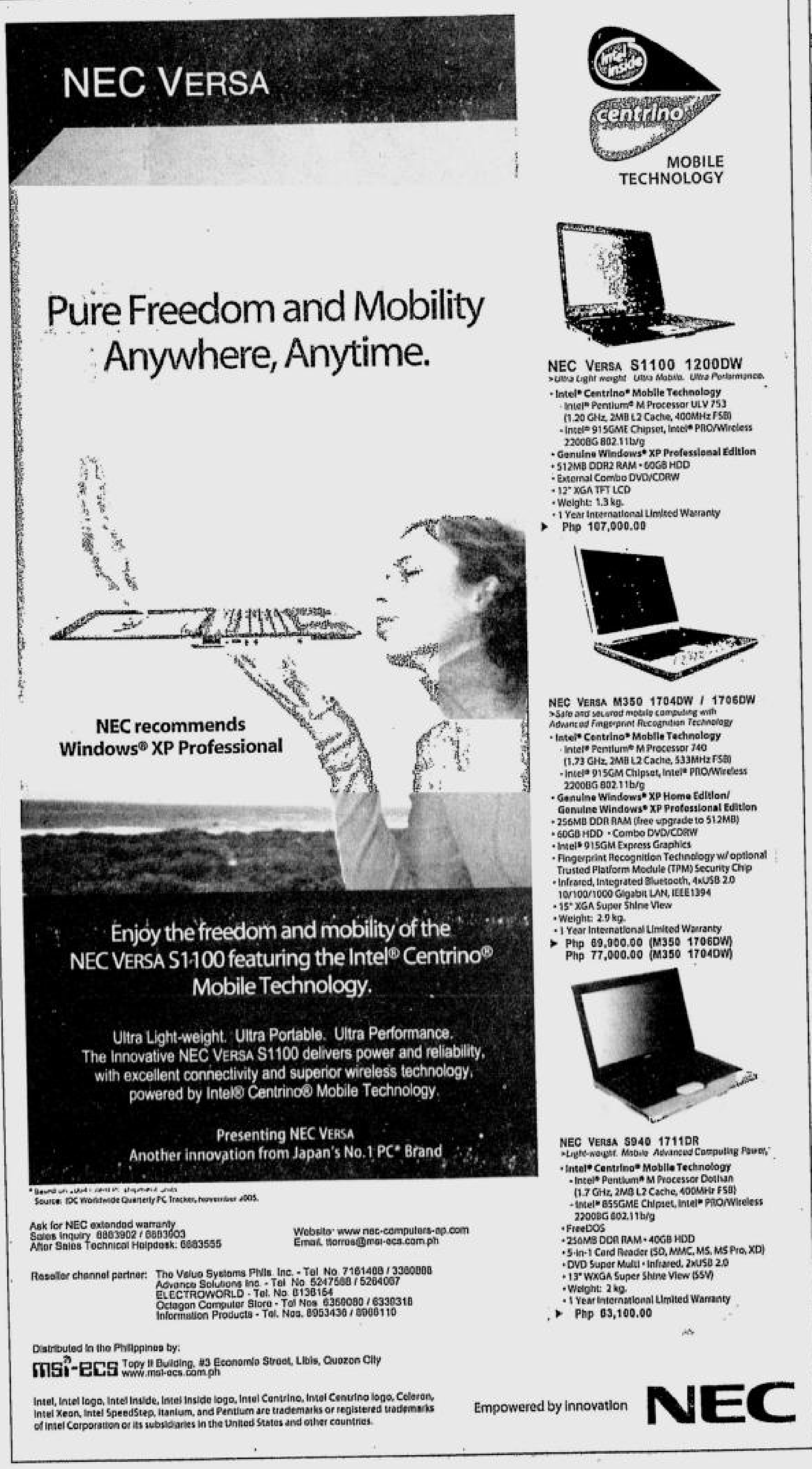
The Jatropha plant's seeds have an oil content of 37 percent, which can be combusted as a fuel without being refined. This oil has already passed tests performed on diesel engines.

The state-run Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has earmarked P1.6 million for the planting of Jatropha in its geothermal reservations.

The Jatropha Propagation Project, undertaken in cooperation with the Dacongcogon Producers Cooperative Marketing Association (DPCMA) and D1 Oils Asia Pacific Inc., will determine the agronomic requirements of the Jatropha species in Philippine conditions.

The Jatropha plant, will be initially planted on a 5-hectare parcel of land in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino had earlier said that PNOC-EDC was very much interested in supporting the Jatropha project as it could provide carbon dioxide-neutral fuel in rural areas and reduce pollution.



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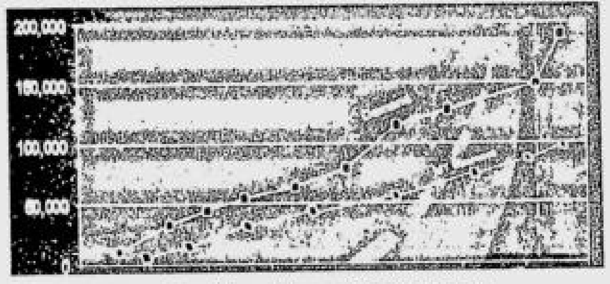

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Environmental groups laud House renewable energy report

By Abigail L. Ho

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY is expected to adopt the Renewable Energy Bill Committee Report.

Environmentalists said this would be "the first crucial step in revolutionizing the power sector in the country."

According to environmentalist group World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), the Renewable Energy Bill is "the by-product of careful research and study by experts in the field of renewable energy sources for over 12 years."

The committee's adoption of the report, which was been scheduled for Feb. 28, is expected to give the bill a much needed push and is seen to help facilitate its passage.

The bill aims to provide an institutional framework and infrastructure that will encourage potential investors to commercially develop the country's indigenous energy resources, including wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, ocean and biomass.

To attract investors to infuse cash into indigenous energy resource development, the bill seeks to provide investors with perks such as tax holidays, duty-free importation of machinery and equipment, and exemption from payment of value-added and real property taxes.

The bill also aims to rationalize taxes and royalties on imported fuel vis-a-vis those slapped on indigenous fuel to ensure the viability of indigenous energy projects.

RP seen getting ₱1.3B from Asian fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will get P1.3 billion in fresh portfolio investment from the second Asian Bond Fund created by 11 central banks in East Asia and the Pacific to boost local currency bond markets in the region.

Bank of the Philippine Islands executive vice president Adelbert Legasto said the ABF Philippine Bond Index Fund would be launched within the first quarter.

BPI was appointed by the Executive Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks to manage the country's allocation.

Legasto is optimistic the country's share will increase significantly if the sovereign credit rating would improve.

"The share is a function of our credit rating. If we were not downgraded, we would have gotten double that amount," Legasto said in an interview.

"If we get an upgrade the fund could increase and if we reach investment grade, you'll probably see the fund growing to P5 billion," he said.

Philippine sovereign debt is still rated by global rating agencies as sub-investment grade. The rating by Moody's Investor Service is the lowest at four notches below investment grade with a negative outlook—a precursor of a possible downgrade. Standard & Poor's rating is three notches below and Fitch's two notches below. Both S&P and Fitch recently changed their outlook from "negative" to "stable."

Legasto said the ABF Philippine Bond Fund would be in the form of unit investment trust funds (UITFs) or pooled funds that would be marked to market. These UITFs will be invested in government securities.

"BPI has already submitted the fund rules, which are now being reviewed by several central banks," he said.

"The Asian Bond Philippine index is solely in pesos and in local government issues," Legasto said, noting that the index had earned about 17 percent last year.

The BPI executive said the government's ongoing bond exchange program, that seeks to consolidate government debts into securities with three, five and seven-year maturities, would also help boost the trading of government securities.

The first ABF worth $1 billion was invested in US dollar-denominated bonds issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in Emeap economies. The ABF2, however, will be invested in local currency-denominated bonds.

The BSP believes ABF2 will play a catalytic role in promoting new products, improving market infrastructure and minimizing regulatory hurdles.

TVI local unit raises mineral output by 71%

By Christine A. Gaylican

CANADIAN MINING FIRM SUBSIDIARY TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. said mineral production at its Cabanatuan mines in Zamboanga Peninsula posted a 71-percent increase last month to 1,200 metric tons from 700 metric tons.

TVI Philippines reported this development to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"The feasibility study on the mining and milling of the sulphide ore body was started following receipt of positive metallurgical results from previous tests. TVI's Canatuan project is very much on a roll," said Clifford M. James, CEO of TVI of Canada, in a report.

James said TVI commissioned mining experts to help fast-track the company's planned expansion initiatives.

"The building of two significant dams by our construction team, under the close supervision of international engineering experts and our manager of environmental protection, was a tremendous achievement under difficult conditions," said James.

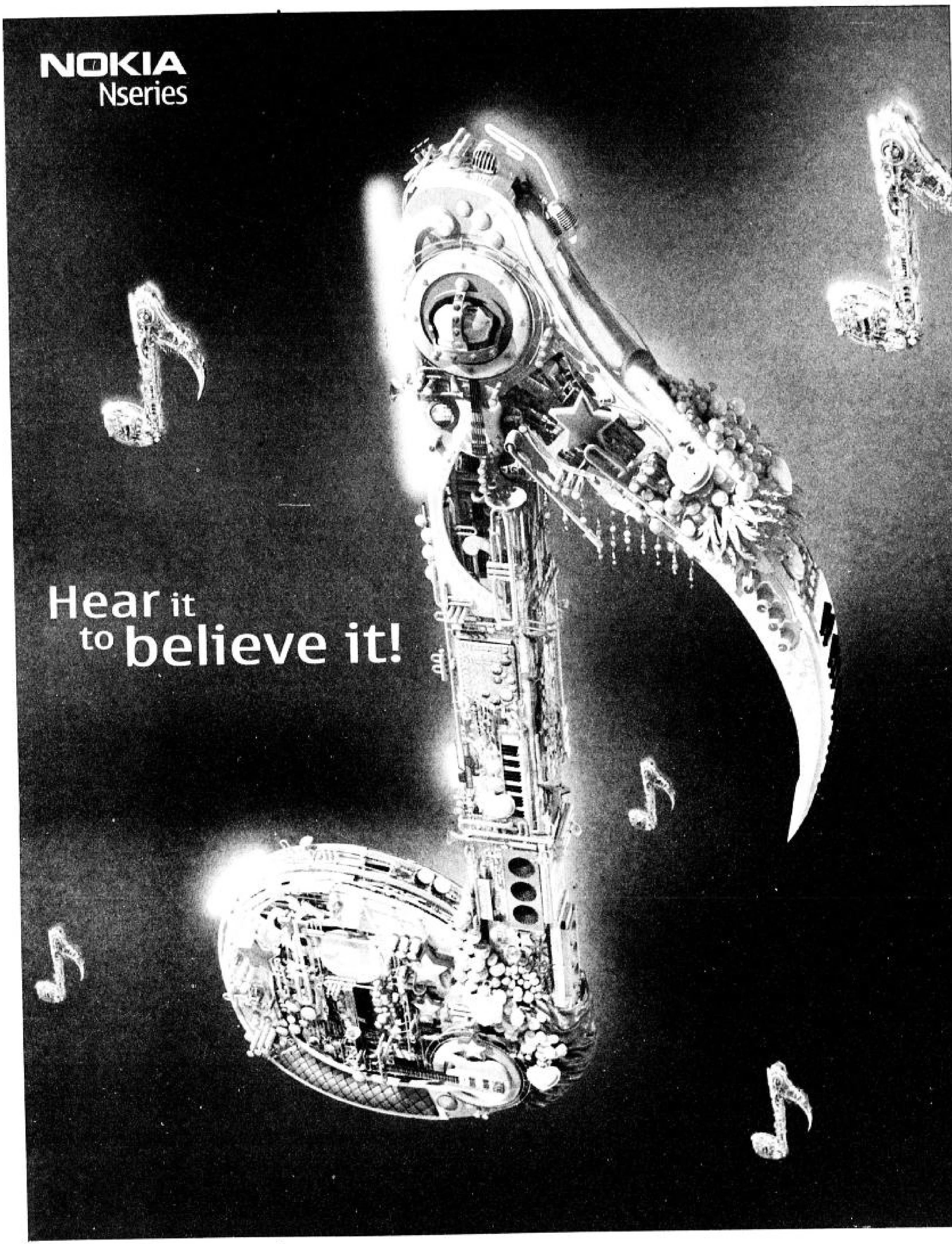
The costs of expanding the mine, plant and tailings dam facilities from 250 MT to 800 MT were estimated at $7.4 million. Actual expenditures amounted to only $2.4 million.

TVI Pacific Inc., the parent company, is planning to increase its investments in the Canatuan mining project this year to $10 million or about P540 million from the original investment target of $7 million.

"We have plans for expansion which will substantially increase the amount we will spend fro the project annually," said James. TVI also reportedly filed applications for new exploration grounds in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

The company said it remained bullish about the prospects of the local mining sector, especially with the Supreme Court's decision allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of mining concessions in the Philippines.

The mining company is also working on the immediate re-activation of its existing precious metals processing plant, also in Zamboanga del Norte.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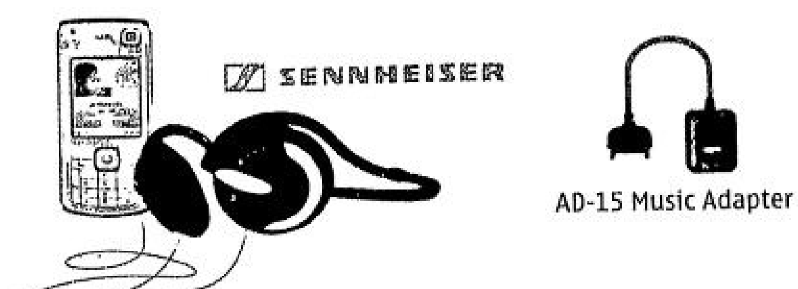

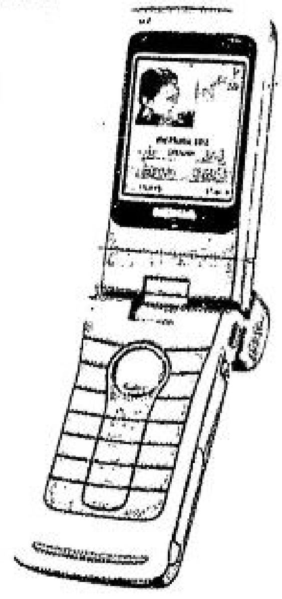

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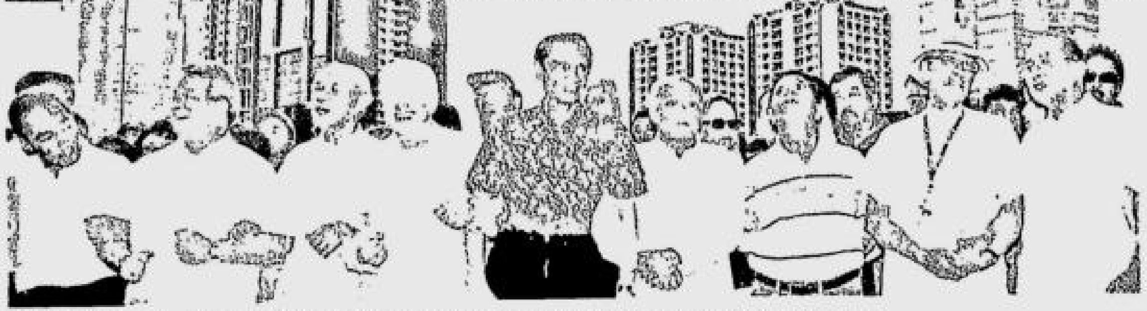

BUSINESS and political leaders find irony in Malacañang declaring a state of emergency on the 20th anniversary of the People Power Revolution

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP moves to attract Chinese tourists /B2-2

Growing a business from behind bars /B2-3

Déjà vu on Ayala

By Volt Contreras

THE BUILDINGS OF AYALA AVENUE MAY have grown taller and sleeker over the last two decades, but the cause for outrage has remained the same on the streets below.

With this simple analogy, officials of the influential Makati Business Club who last year called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo joined former President Corazon Aquino and thousands at the country's premier financial hub last Friday in a march marking the 20th anniversary People Power revolt.

The business leaders expressed worries and found irony in Malacañang putting the nation under a state of emergency following its discovery of an alleged coup plot, on the very day Filipinos marked the end of the Marcos dictatorship and the return of democracy.

"The unfortunate thing is that after 20 years you come to think of how much progress have we made. Buildings may be a sign of progress but how do Filipinos still live?" said Jose Cuisia, former governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and now president and CEO of Philamlife.

"If you look at the per capita income of the Filipino, it has hardly improved over 20 years. The buildings are owned by corporations like ours, but does that mean the average Filipino has improved his living? No, probably not," added Cuisia, an MBC trustee.

"The buildings here may be taller, but the causes (for which we march) are still the same," said Guillermo Luz, MBC executive director.

The two executives were referring to the Ayala skyline, which has transformed from a largely medium-rise enclave in the mid-80s into today's towering row of glass and steel.

Before the anti-Marcos movement climaxed at the Edsa highway, it first took a slow boil down Ayala's lanes which were the site of the protest rallies led by Aquino and her yellow-shirted supporters from 1983 to 86.

Luz recalled that the Ayala rallies were then held every Friday, beginning shortly after the Aug. 31, 1986 burial of the slain Sen. Benigno Aquino, husband of the former President.

Roberto de Ocampo, a former finance secretary during the Ramos administra-

DEJÁ/ B2-2

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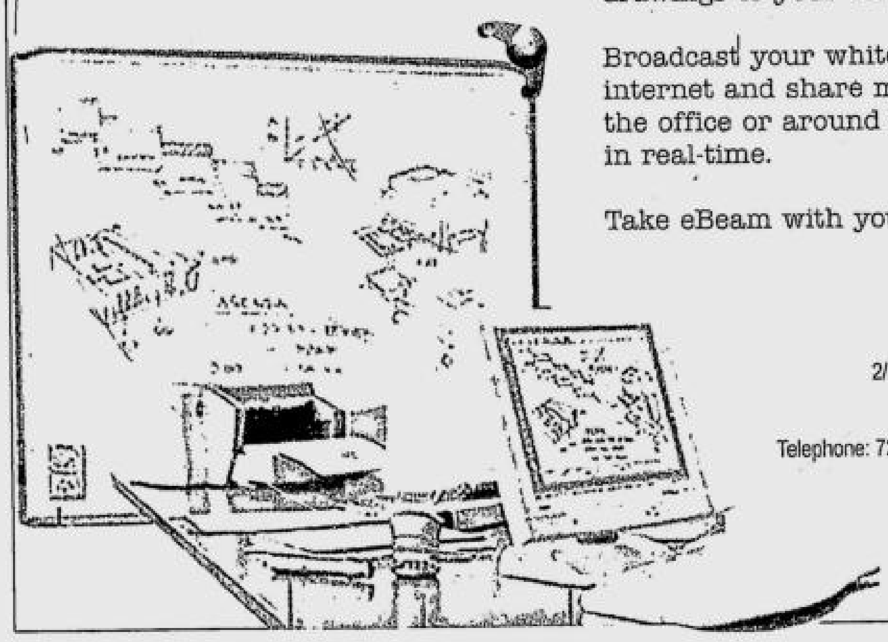

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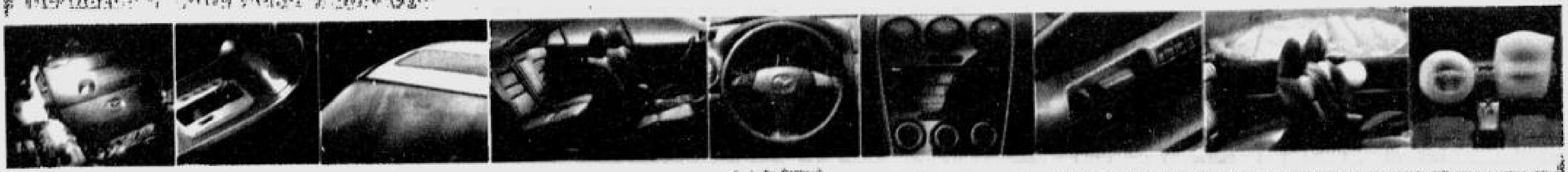

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Deja vu on Ayala

From page B2-1

tion and now president of the Asian Institute of the Management, conceded that people like him who helped revive the post-Marcos economy may now be feeling "frustrated."

He was then living abroad when the Edsa revolt broke out but "came back shortly afterwards in order to help the country restore its economy, " he told the INQUIRER, adding:

"You can of course imagine that many people who have that experience are a little frustrated by the fact that, after 20 years and after some forward movement of the economy particularly from the Aquino to Ramos era, we're back to being the doormat of Asia and it doesn't feel good for the national pride."

"We have been the example of a peaceful democratic revolution towards change, only to find (ourselves) going in circles," said De Ocampo, an MBC vice chair.

Asked how the business community might view the Palace declaration of a state of national emergency, de Ocampo said: "I don't know the details but I think it might be a little bit too premature to call for a state of emergency especially since expressions of democratic opinions are something that is part of our democratic system."

Cuisia lamented that the declaration was "not a good sign, because that shows that perhaps we may see less freedoms, and perhaps there may be some impact in terms of the democracy that we are all familiar with. But I hope not."

"Definitely," Luz replied when asked if he saw any short-term impact the declaration may have on the country's business climate. "I understand that foreign analysts have already called this a disaster.

"What all at the (recent coup) rumors failed to do to the peso, the government did today," he stressed. "People are keeping this economy afloat but wrong (government) decisions are what's causing us problems."

Luz also noted how "ironic" that Edsa I was being remembered on the very day the government committed a "betrayal of People Power" with yesterday's arrest of some antigovernment marchers like the "mild-mannered" sociology professor and INQUIRER columnist Randy David.

RP moves to attract Chinese tourists

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Patrick Uy

EMBARKING ON A CAREER IN the hospitality biz? It pays to start learning Mandarin now.

China, not Japan or Korea, is poised to become the Philippines' leading source of tourists four years from now.

Close to 15 million Chinese are expected to travel the world in 2010 as compared to eight million Koreans and 17 million Japanese, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

This fact wasn't lost on Durano and the rest of the DOT's "Team China" when they went on a week-long marketing campaign to conquer the Middle Kingdom.

One of the mission's highlights was to promote the country's attractions in beach-crazy Shanghai, home to more than 20 million mobile and relatively affluent Chinese.

Korea, followed by Japan, is still the country's number one source of tourists, said Durano. But at the rate arrivals from China have been growing, it won't come as a surprise if China soon occupies the top spot.

And to think the Philippines had virtually ignored the potential of the market as recently as two years ago.

After Durano and company entered into the vast but untapped market in 2004, it took China a little over a year to surpass Hong Kong and Taiwan, to land fourth place in terms of tourist arrivals.

China is now fast catching up with the United States, a traditionally strong market composed mostly of Filipino-American *balikbayans* and their families.

Vast, uncontested

Indeed, the entire Chinese market is so vast and uncontested that DOT has limited its focus on three key cities: Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen.

Durano plans to add the southern city of Guangzhou to the list this year.

"We were getting less than 3,000 tourists per month from all over China in 2004," Durano said. "This year, we've been getting close to 10,000 tourists per month. Such a leap is far from incremental. It's exponential."

For the first time in recent memory, the DOT has had to reset its official target several times this year.

It met its year-end goal of attracting 55,000 Chinese tourists in less than six months.

It again surpassed expectations after it raised the target to 70,000.

As an upside to this development, the majority of tourists from the world over have chosen travel close to their home countries since 9-11. The Chinese are proving to be no exception.

"We might be able to attract 100,000 Chinese tourists this year," said Durano. "Our main challenge right now is to breach the 10,000 per month mark."

Such a trend merely echoes the robust growth being felt by the country's tourism sector, which seems to have rebounded after a series of negative travel advisories from such countries as the US and Great Britain.

While global tourism grows by six to seven percent, said Durano, the Philippines continues to post double-digit growth.

"We're not just growing with the market," he added. "We're really capturing a bigger slice of the market."

Fresh from string of official trips to London and Taipei, the energetic Durano met separately with travel agents and members of the Shanghai media in his attempt to lure more dollar-spending Chinese to the Philippines.

Early start

Part of DOT's marketing efforts in China began last year when Durano invited the first batch of Chinese travel agents and journalists to an all-expense-paid pleasure trip to various parts of the country.

Dubbed as "familiarization tours," such trips, which seem to have generated a great deal of mileage, have now become routine at DOT.

Modest funding hasn't stymied DOT in its marketing efforts.

If anything, it has further inspired the department to be more creative and cost-effective in its approach, said Durano.

This, in turn, has reportedly caused some of the country's regional rivals to stop and take notice.

"The strategic challenge in any industry is to find your space in the market place," he added. "Instead of placing ads on BBC and CNN, we found our space here in the local outlets. Since it's virtually uncontested, we're leading."

Since 2003, Philippine Airlines' Airbus 320 (with a capacity of 150 people) flies daily to Shanghai.

Lack of rooms

"Our biggest problem now is the lack of high-end rooms," said Durano. "The private sector is already responding to this by either expanding their existing facilities or building new ones. It will take some time before they're all finally up and running."

The team, with the exception of Durano, later flew to the southern city of Kunming, this year's site of the four-day China International Travel Mart.

The tourism secretary also flew to Seoul, Korea, where DOT was simultaneously holding a marketing campaign.

Reportedly the biggest government-sanctioned event of its kind, the annual travel fair draws countries near and far in their attempt to court moneyed Chinese. The Philippine pavilion made use of back-lighted and giant photo murals of beaches and other bodies of water to stand out and lure in the crowd.

After China, said Durano, the next big thing is India.

As the Indian middle class continues to increase due to industrialization, he sees a gold mine in globe-trotting Indians, who, unlike beach-loving Chinese, are more attracted to city life.

"While we were trying to think of ways to sell excess rooms in Manila, we stumbled upon India," said Durano. "They want the stuff that they're prohibited from doing there. One is gambling, two is branded shopping, because they're still a closed economy, and three is entertainment."

The DOT promotion in New Delhi this April dovetails with PAL's plan to operate its first-ever direct flights between the Indian capital and Manila come June.

To keep the momentum going, DOT is now busy "recreating" the country's strategic profile.

By tapping into an untapped market, Durano hopes to outpace and eventually break away from the competition.

Whether you speak Mandarin or Hindi, the dollar signs is a universal symbol that need no translation.

CLOSE to 15 million Chinese are expected to travel the world in 2010 as compared to eight million Koreans and 17 million Japanese, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The Philippine Economy: The continuing challenge

MAPping THE FUTURE

Amando M. Tetangco Jr.

DURING THE BSP'S ANNUAL reception for the banking and business community recently, I had one principal appeal to our friends to make the best of our circumstances, achieve progress in our own spheres, so that in the end, the whole nation will be better off.

MAP's theme for this year, "Call to action: Country above self," happens to be in accord with my appeal. We are all convinced that the must-do list for the Philippines is long, some of the items are structural while some would require streamlining of policies. Any and all efforts to address this must-do list are therefore quite crucial. The next best thing to do is precisely this—take action in your respective spheres of influence. As captains of industries, you can truly generate tremendous benefits for our country and our people.

What you have selected as guiding theme for this year is exactly the mindset we want Filipinos to have: Country above self. If you can widen the reach of this message to cover as many Filipinos as possible, then you would be a part of a chain that seeks to improve the nation.

Let me share with you some positive news on the economic front which give us reason to be more confident about our future.

2005 a most challenging year

By most accounts, 2005 was a very challenging year for the Philippines. We had to contend with high oil prices, rising global interest rates, lower farm output and non-economic tremors. Yet our economy, as measured by GDP, continued to expand. Sure, it wasn't at the pace we aimed for, but our economy proved its resilience once again.

The expansion in economic activity was achieved amid an easing inflation environment. Inflation has continued to ease since the second half of 2005, supported mainly by the softening prices of food and oil, and to some extent the stronger peso. Headline inflation has fallen to 7.0 percent in the second half of 2005. The average inflation rate for last year was 7.6 percent. More importantly, core inflation, which takes out the impact of volatile food and energy prices on the CPI, has steadily trended downwards. The decline in core inflation suggests that the inflationary pressures of the past year were not of a permanent, demand-driven nature. This fact supports the limited and selectively tightening bias of monetary policy.

Another source of optimism is the improving fiscal performance. Coming from a very difficult period of large and persistent fiscal overhang, the government embarked on and succeeded in its initial efforts towards fiscal consolidation, by way of intensified tax administration and vital new tax measures as well as expenditure control. The national government budget deficit stood at P146.5 billion for 2005, well below the target for the period. this figure also represents the lowest budget shortfall since 2001. As revenue gains continue with the VAT implementation, we stand a good chance of seeing a balanced budget by 2008.

The positive investor sentiment over the progress made on the fiscal front as well as healthy inflows from remittances have also strengthened the external position. Latest estimates show that the overall balance of payments (BOP) position for 2005 stood at a surplus of $2.4 billion, which is a welcome turnaround from the previous year's shortfall.

The peso likewise ended stronger against the US dollar on the back of the positive market sentiment and strong inflows. The peso ended 2005 as the top performing currency in the Asian region.

This surge in dollar inflows also allowed the BSP to build up its dollar reserves. At $18.5 billion as at end-December 2005, the country's gross international reserves (GIR) is significantly higher than the $17 billion target for the year and is sufficient to cover about 4 months' worth of imports of goods and services.

Meanwhile, the country's external debt also narrowed to $55.5 billion by end-September 2005. this amount continued to be made up mostly of medium- and long-term liabilities, which ensures that our debt payments remain manageable and sustainable.

At the same time, the Philippine banking system continued to show improving soundness. As of November 2005, commercial banks' non-performing loans as a percentage to total loans registered a single digit level of 8.7 percent. Growth in bank lending, however, continues to be modest (2.1 percent in November), but we expect it to rebound this year given the substantial progress achieved so far with sustained asset clean up.

Having said this, I have to admit, the Philippines is not yet totally out of the woods. There are risks that we have to face and manage in the years ahead. We are sure, however, to move forward if we persevere. For us at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, we are aware of the risks attendant to our primary responsibility of keeping prices stable.

The Monetary Board had to respond promptly and carefully to these inflationary risks to the inflation target. In the course of 2005, we raised our policy interest rates by a total of 75 basis points and increased reserve requirements by 200 basis points. These were modest responses compared to other jurisdictions where their capacity is nearing to the brim and the labor market is stretched to the limit. Yet they were decisive, considering the demand pressures were limited and the second round impact was yet to emerge. By the second half of 2005, inflation had started to ease.

Improving fundamentals

What then do we see in 2006?

We continue to face uncertainties, but I believe the country's improving economic fundamentals should give us a reasonable degree of optimism about 2006.

Economic activity, for one thing, is likely to continue at a reasonable pace, driven mainly by the services and industry sectors. Nonetheless, the rise in oil prices over the past year is likely to take its toll on domestic demand, particularly on consumption spending. For this reason, the development budget coordinating committee is looking at real GDP growth in 2006 that is likely to be closer to the lower end of its target at 5.7 percent.

As for inflation, it is expected to be higher in 2006, given the continued upside risks. Oil prices, for example, are expected to remain high relative to their historical trend and the RVAT is likely to exert, at least a short-term, upward pressure on consumer prices. Taking into account the recent easing of oil prices, as well as the strengthening of the peso, inflation is expected to hover between 7.5 percent and 8.1 percent in 2006. Let me point out though that we do expect an easing of inflation in the second half of the year, as the impact of the RVAT diminishes.

Meanwhile, improvements in fiscal performance, ample liquidity in the financial system, and moderate credit growth are expected to mitigate the impact of inflationary pressures on market interest rates.

There is also good reason to expect a strong external position this year. Dollar inflows, primarily from OFW remittances and investments, are expected to continue to come in. with healthy inflows, the exchange rate is poised to remain broadly stable in the course of the year.

While economic performance appears to be on track, we remain watchful of the potential risks and challenges to the economic outlook. These risks include the following: (1) volatility in world oil prices; (2) a build-up of excess liquidity in the financial system; (3) possible exchange rate volatility due to excess liquidity; and (4) adverse shifts in the public's inflation expectations.

In the face of these challenges, the public can count on the BSP to make sure that these risks do not endanger our path to economic progress. The BSP will stay committed to its mandate of promoting low and stable inflation.

The BSP is also committed to strengthening the financial sector through continued structural reforms. Foremost of these measures is the clean-up of banks' balance sheets of nonperforming assets. The clean-up will help spur credit and investment activity and create the basis for more sustainable growth in the medium term.

Other key financial reforms will be focused on: (1) improving the BSP's supervision technology and capacity; (2) aligning prudential regulation of the banking system with international standards and best practices; (3) strengthening corporate governance standards and market discipline mechanisms; (4) further developing the domestic capital market; and (5) enhancing the payments system.

Efforts are also underway for the implementation of Basle II accord and adoption of international accounting standards by local banks. These initiatives are designed to bring local banking practices in line with internationally accepted standards.

In the area of capital market development, the BSP will continue its active collaboration with other government agencies and the private sector for the completion of much-needed market infrastructure to enhance system integrity and overall market confidence.

We will likewise pursue further enhancements in financial information to guide investor decisions. A key effort in this area is the establishment of credit rating agencies. We are also working closely with Congress on the establishment of a centralized credit information system to help private enterprises secure better access to credit, reduce borrowing costs, as well as minimize the risk exposures of financial intermediaries.

The BSP also actively seeks to widen the investor base of the local financial markets through a number of new investment products which would better reflect market prices. These will help encourage more institutional investors such as insurance companies, mutual funds and pension funds to participate in the capital market. Future reform measures will eventually lead to the introduction of exchange-based products that can further stimulate market activity and deepen liquidity.

Continuing challenge

The near-term economic outlook suggests more vibrant economic activity, but there are potential obstacles on the way to sustainable growth. The critical task ahead is for us to focus, not just on macro-economic stabilization in the short-term, but also on preserving the momentum for economic reforms to ensure sustained growth in the years to come. Consistent with map's marching order, we need to act outside of ourselves.

Most of the items on the must-do list will take time before these come into fruition. Reforming an economy is an enormous task, one that the government, even in theory, cannot do by itself. Governments govern, or better still, guide. but it is the economic and business community that creates commodities and services, builds the economy and competes in the global market.

I take heart in the fact that our business leaders in map remain a stalwart partner of the government in making economic progress possible. Personally, I am optimistic that our hard work and resourcefulness will allow us to overcome our remaining economic problems. As a people, they say Filipinos have a knack for turning adversity into opportunity. my caution is that we should not always welcome adversity to be able to turn it into opportunity. I believe that by responding to the challenges with a deeper sense of purpose, by adhering to "country above self" as a guiding principle, we can reach our full potential. By all means, we have what it takes to succeed.

(Edited speech delivered during the 57th MAP inaugural meeting. The author is governor of the BSP. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Short but significant: Drucker on leadership

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

LAST NOVEMBER 2005 THE world lost a great management and leadership guru in Peter F. Drucker. As a tribute to Drucker, John Maxwell is giving up his space this week so that we can publish highlights from an interview Drucker gave to Forbes magazine.

Peter F. Drucker stopped giving media interviews in 2002. But in October 2004, he granted an exception to Forbes Publisher Rich Karlgaard, who met with the 95-year-old management guru at his "surprisingly spartan" home in Claremont, California.

The interview was arranged by Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life" and head of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, California, whom Drucker has been advising for two decades.

Karlgaard's recap of his two-hour meeting with Drucker is a must-read for leaders who value practical, straightforward advice about how to lead more effectively. To whet your appetite, here are a few of Drucker's thoughts on various aspects of leadership.

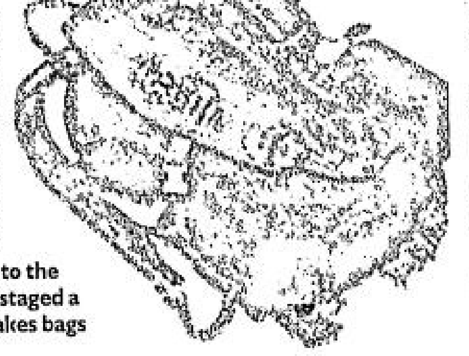
- "Successful leaders don't start out asking, 'What do I want to do?' They ask, 'What needs to be done?' Then they ask, 'Of those things that would make a difference, which are right for me?' They don't tackle things that they aren't good at."
- "Charismatic leadership by itself certainly is greatly overstated. Look, one of the most effective American presidents of the last 100 years was Harry Truman. He didn't have an ounce of charisma. Truman was as bland as a dead mackerel. Everybody who worked for him worshiped him because he was absolutely trustworthy. If Truman said no, it was no, and if he said yes, it was yes. And he didn't say no to one person and yes to the next one on the same issue."
- "The most dangerous traps for a leader are those near-successes where everybody says that if they just give it another big push it will go over the top. One tries it once. One tries it twice. One tries it a third time. But, by then it should be obvious that this will be very hard to do. So, as I always advise my friend Rick Warren, 'Don't tell me what you're doing, Rick. Tell me what you've stopped doing.' "

For more of Drucker's insightful comments, see: http://www.forbes.com/2004/11/19/cz_rk_1119drucker.html?partner=smallbusiness_newsletter

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

Growing a firm from behind bars

By Joselle dR Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau



BILLY Pascua belongs to the Magdalo group which staged a mutiny in 2003. He makes bags and outdoor apparel

BEING IN DETENTION DID NOT stop Air Force 1st Lt. Billy Pascua from continuing a business venture he started five years back.

Pascua belongs to the Magdalo group, which staged a short-lived mutiny in 2003.

Pascua, part-owner of TTCS Outdoor Apparel and General Merchandise on Bayani Road in Fort Bonifacio, found that detention does not stop a bag manufacturing business from growing.

In fact, the company he shares with partner Monique Benesa, is now considered a pioneer in the production of tactical gear for the military.

"It all started as a hobby," Pascua tells the INQUIRER.

During his school days, Pascua collected knapsacks and bags.

Later, he decided to design his own bags and knapsacks and partnered with Benesa.

In 2001, with a loan of P20,000 as capital, Pascua, his brother, and Benesa started developing designs for bags and then made these these into actual products for evaluation.

They also started product and design testing involving some members of the Philippine Navy's elite Special Welfare Group (SWAG) and the Air Force's 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing.

With only two designs, one for each unit, they started manufacturing items for personal use of clients.

"We only manufacture when somebody orders," Pascua tells the INQURIER.

Then more orders started coming in. There were also requests for other products.

So, Pascua and his partners started marketing different kinds of bags.

"We started getting subcontractors for making the bags but still on per order basis. We hired about four workers to do the orders," Pascua says.

During the second quarter of 2002, Pascua showed their sample products to fellow pilots at the Mactan Air Base, Cebu City.

It was a big hit.

In 2003, the still unnamed business went full-blast.

It started producing assault packs, bags, cases, tactical slings, holsters, tactical thigh rig, tactical chest rig, hydration system, load-bearing equipment, vests, belts and accessories.

When he was arrested for the failed Oakwood mutiny, Pascua continued doing business inside the Villamor Air Base, where he is detained.

It was also while in detention that he thought of adopting brand name Tactics for the products.

Now, although he does not mind personally taking orders, Pascua admitted it is different when you do your business freely.

"It's hard doing business while in detention, but it's one way of surviving," he said.

"How do I manage? Through couriers, partners and friends," Pascua said.

To make sure everything goes smoothly, Pascua said his partner "visits me more often to get instructions."

"There is nothing to do while you are in detention but to make yourself productive," he says.

Then in 2004, TTCS was formalized into a company.

It also started joining local and foreign trade fairs to solicit more orders.

"Of course being detained here, I wasn't present during those events. I was represented by my partner," he says.

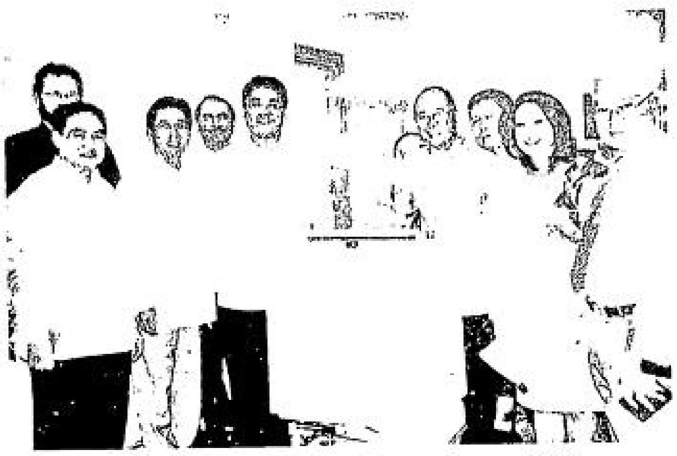
From a small start-up, TTCS was able to procure more equipment.

"In every business, the decision to take risk would help us start, discipline helps us to finish," Pascua says.

PHC acquires hi-tech equipment

FORTE WITH JETSTREAM, THE MOST ADVANCED GAMMA CAMERA systems, was turned over by Philips Medical Systems to the Philippine Heart Center during the inauguration of the hospital's nuclear medicine facility.

The installation of the gamma camera systems made up the second batch of delivery of Philips Medical System equipment under the ORET project, a partnership between the Department of Health, the Netherlands government and the Philips Group of Companies in the Philippines calling for the delivery of an extensive line of medical equipment and related services by Philips to enhance healthcare services nationwide.



THE TURNOVER rites of the Philips Gamma Camera. Philips Philippines president Med Mateo (3rd from left), Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo (5th from left) and Philippine Heart Center director Dr. Ludgerio Torres (4th from right), with guests.

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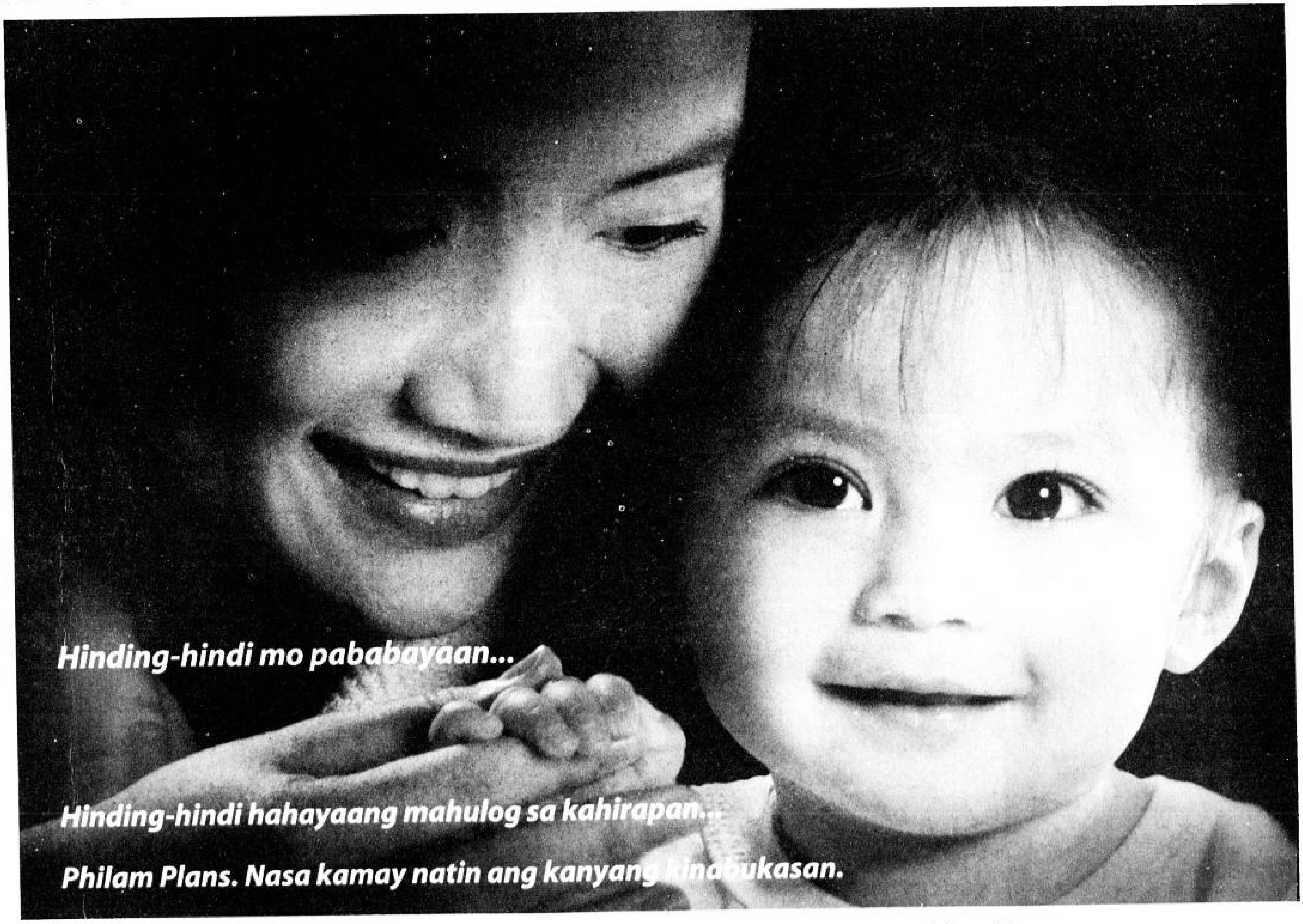
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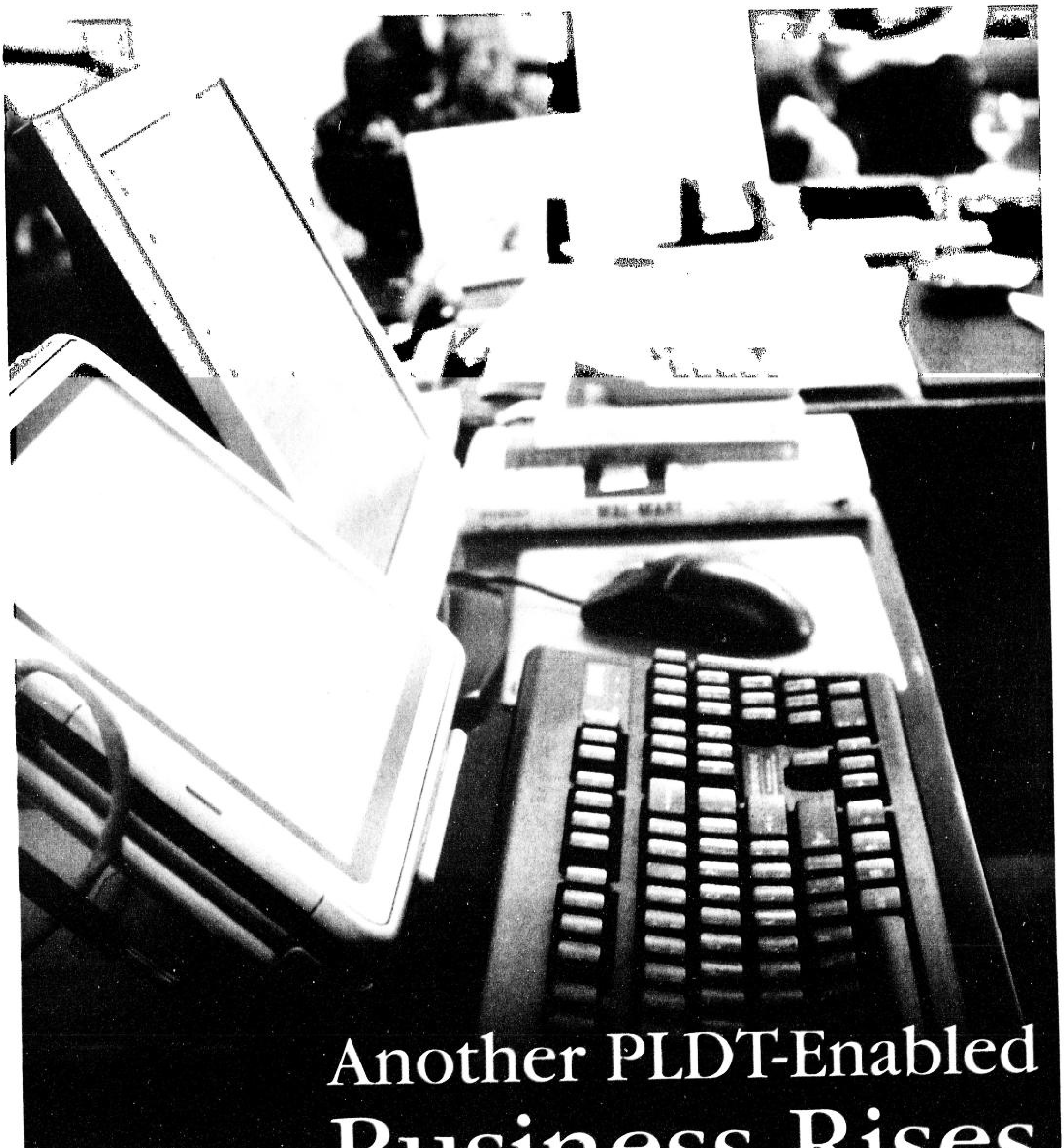

Another PLDT-Enabled Business Rises

The Winning PLDT & HBC Tech Partnership

HBC Chairperson and CEO Doctora Rosalinda "San San" Ang-Hortaleza

HBC is the Home of Beauty Exclusives. It is also the place where technology helps win battles in the cutthroat consumer personal care market. By entrusting the intricate processes of an inventory and sales-driven business to PLDT Business Solutions, HBC has grown from mid-sized beginnings to a targeted volume of 1 Billion Pesos.

All this in just a few years since husband and wife doctors, Rolando and Rosalinda Hortaleza, inherited 6 outlets from the Hortaleza patriarch. It was also the time when they saw an opportunity in the "specialized beauty" – health, beauty and personal care products, and dove in.

"Our exclusive products are comparable in terms of quality to more expensive brands but definitely more affordable," says HBC Chairperson and CEO Dr. Rosalinda Ang-Hortaleza.

"Doctora" as she is known, or "San San" to even closer friends, always kept a firm belief in the power of technology to transform a business. Throughout the years, the case has been made at HBC that "being quicker and faster" means winning over customers from more established marketing giants. Doctora's efficient streamlining through a signup with PLDT Business Solutions in November 2003 was the crucial weapon in a guerilla war, producing enviable results.

"Our inventory control is done online, it's easy to see what is out of stock and quickly replenish them." She points to a flat terminal just to the left of her long mahogany desk. The twinkling lights and running numbers indicate that it is on continuous update mode; she is literally on top of the whole show: 158 branches spread throughout the country. With a flip of a switch they can check the top 10 moving items in each branch as well as individual customer profiles.

IT Manager Mar G. Jovero checks real-time store information at HBC's Muñoz branch

HBC President and COO Susan M. Loyola

Award Winning Secrets

"Even our employees' leaves are filed and processed online," says Susan M. Loyola, HBC President and COO. Both women, obviously smart and driven are also winningly humble in their achievements. Proof of this is HBC winning the Philippine Retailers Association Most Outstanding Filipino Retailer – Specialty Category Award, first as Most Promising for 2004 and the main award in 2005. In addition, HBC is named as 2005 Employer of the Year, 1st Runner Up by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. It is a strong testament that commercial success and employee satisfaction and loyalty go hand in hand.

All of this the Doctora has done with the help of technology. HBC's Information Technology Manager, Mar G. Jovero says that, "She has always been supportive in acquiring new technology. The better to fight the giants in the industry."

And by this month, HBC will be taking the fight to the giants' home turf when it opens its first overseas store in Los Angeles, USA. "It's near Pasadena, where there's a large population of Filipinos. It seems that a lot of our countrymen take our products back to the States after visiting the Philippines," says Susan.

Probably for good reason. Doctora, who at one time in her past aspired to be a CPA lawyer, opens a few bottles of various HBC creams and powders. Made of naturally derived ingredients and are hypoallergenic, they are sweet and gentle to touch and smell. Such is the smell of success anyway.

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Showdown of piano masters

Leading French bank supports Philippine arts by sponsoring rare concert of piano virtuosi

MANUEL Maramba, OSB, Greg Zuniega, Nena Villanueva, Raul Sunico, Anamaria de Guzman, Della Besa, Ma. Regina Montesclaros, Rudolf Golez and Mary Anne Espina

BNP Paribas officials Claude Haberer (second from left, second row), Peter Labrie (third from left, second row) and Anthony DeBarry (second from right, second row), with CCP president Nestor Jardin (third from left, first row) pose with some of the country's leading pianists.

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF a major show. And it is also backed up, in a way, by the euro, the European currency which is challenging the almighty US dollar.

Comes now "Virtuosos, A Wealth of Piano Masters," to be staged at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on March 3, 8 p.m.

The concert brings together 12 piano virtuosi, a well-known cellist (Renato Lucas), members of Ballet Philippines in modern dance numbers, and two major orchestras (the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra), to be directed by Eugene Castillo, PPO conductor.

The performing pianists range from child prodigy Inna Montesclaros, aged 12, to Nena Villanueva, ageless. The other virtuosos (in alphabetical order) are Della Besa, Ryan Cayabyab, Anamaria de Guzman, Mary Anne Espina, Rudolf Golez, Najib Ismail, Fr. Miguel Maramba, OSB, Peter Porticos, Raul Sunico, and J. Greg Zuniega.

Stage direction is by Monino Duque.

The program is a heady melange of the classical-romantic repertoire, with a dash of Filipino fantasy. These include compositions by (and excerpts from) Mozart, Bizet, Wagner, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Donizetti, Gershwin, Buencamino and Cayabyab.

Strong supporter

The concert is part of the CCP's "Arts for the People" program. The main sponsor is the Paris-based BNP Paribas, a leading private bank and investment house in Europe known for its strong support for the arts.

At a recent press conference at the CCP announcing the March 3 event, three BNP Paribas officials in the Asian Region were present: CEO Claude Haberer, head of territory Peter Labrie and head of communication Anthony DeBarry.

Haberer, a charismatic Frenchman, described himself as "a friend of the Philippines and of the CCP for 25 years now." There is no better place than here, he added, to stage a concert like "Virtuosos" and "it is also a way of announcing our presence in the Philippines and the region… of emphasizing our business."

As for the other rewards, Haberer quipped, "We get a few tickets!"

Labrie, a Canadian, also paid tribute to the Filipino artist: "The Philippines has a very strong component in the arts… you see Filipinos performing everywhere, even in Las Vegas. As for BNP Paribas, the bank acts as a catalyst… to meet the needs of our clients."

"Virtuosos," then, is a wedding of art and commerce. CCP president Nestor Jardin set the tone for the day when he declared that "in these times of political uncertainty, natural and manmade calamities, and tragedies, the arts are one of the few things we can latch on to."

One is reminded of the famous words of the writer Katherine Anne Porter in 1940, when Europe was in flames and Asia was about to be engulfed by war: "They (the arts) cannot be destroyed because they represent the substance of faith and the only reality. They are what we find again when the ruins are cleared away."

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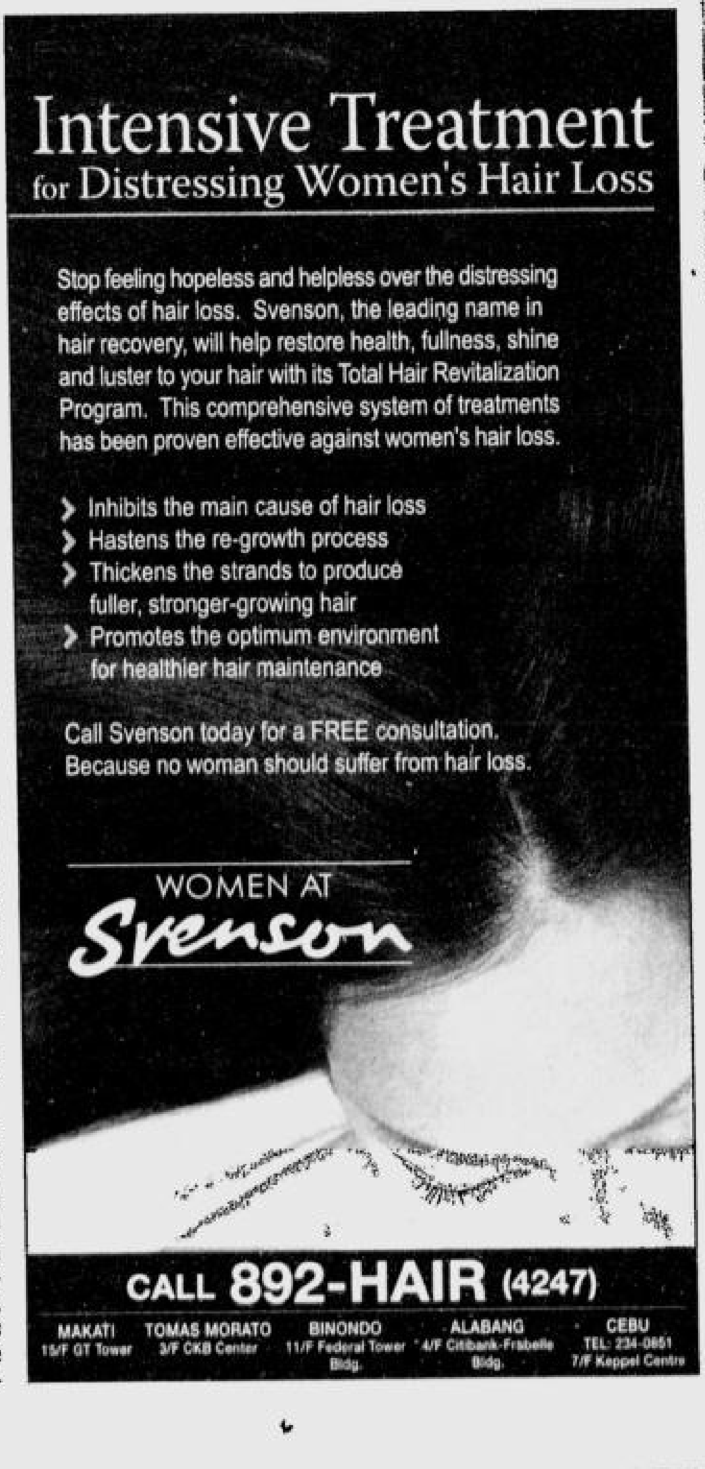

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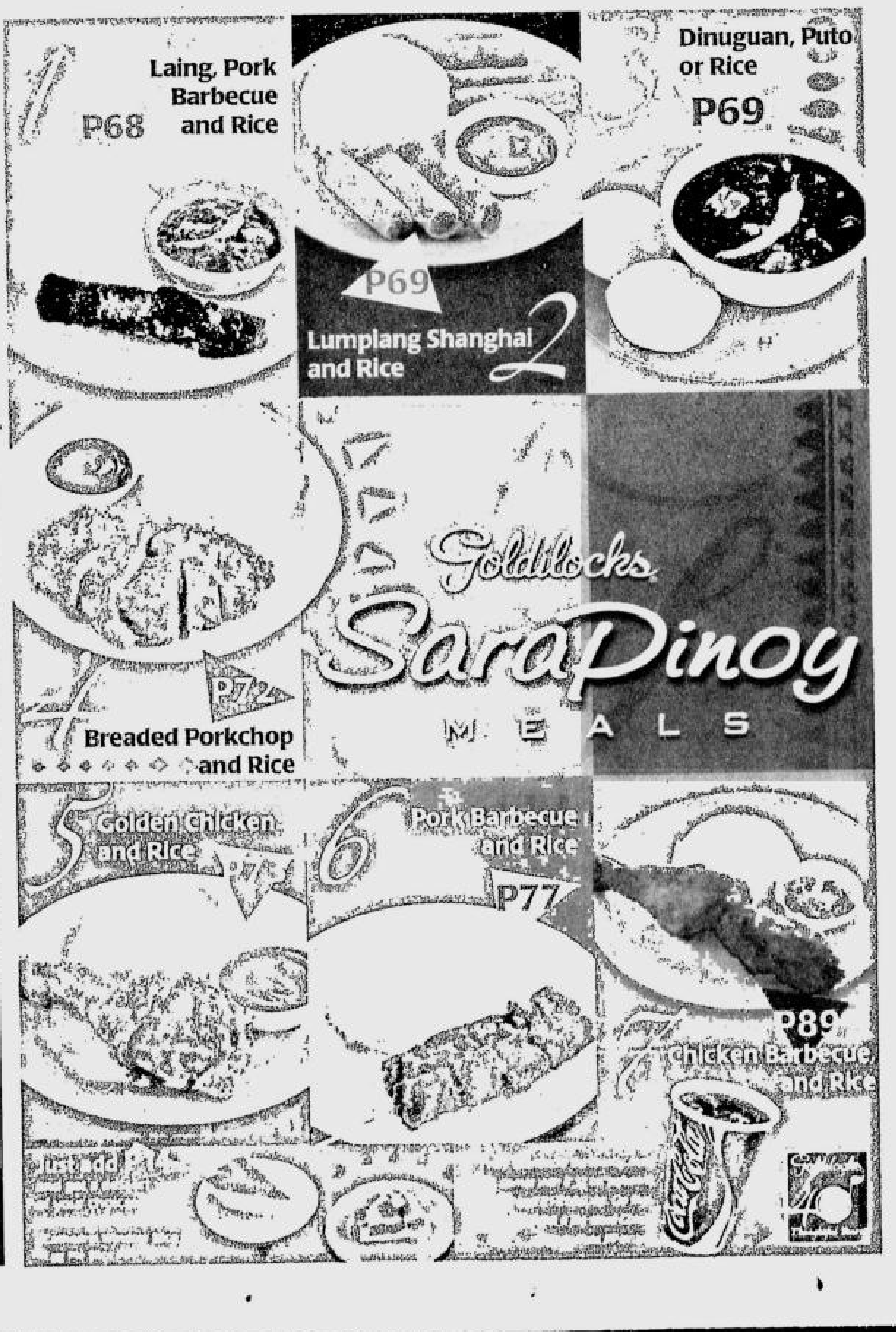
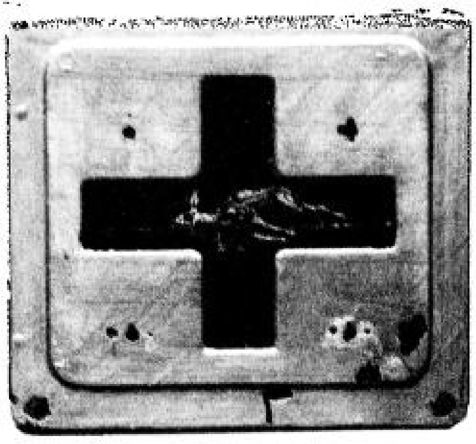


VISUAL ARTS



"THE ESSENTIALIST Trap"

Wire Tuazon at Mag:net

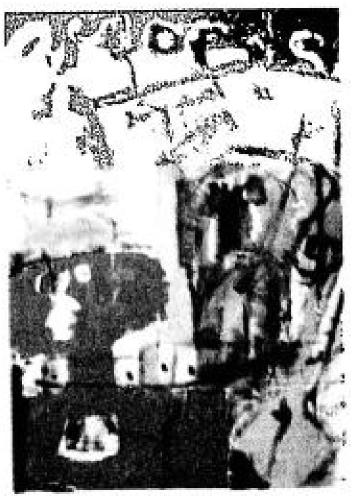
Wire Tuazon will present "Authentic Hacienda," March 2, at Mag:net Gallery ABS, Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, QC. The exhibit features objects and paintings in enamel and silver leaf. Call 4100995.

On-the-spot painting contest

The Ayala Museum will present Likhang Sining, an on-the-spot painting competition at Ayala Museum, March 11. The contest is open to all high-school students. Entry forms are available at the nearest Rotary Office or at Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. cor. De la Rosa St., Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 7577117 local 28 or 7533098. Entry forms may be submitted through fax, 7573588 or 8451655. Deadline is not later than March 1.

Positivist show

The Food and Art Galerie at 12/F, GT Tower, Ayala Ave., cor. H.V. De la Costa St., presents works of graduates of Positivism Art Workshop by E.R. Tagle. Participants include Susan and Matthew Mendoza, Mark Celeste, Robert Abog, Pauline Pascual, Olga Pacana. Call 8112432 or 0927-5522288.



"THE DANCE," by Poch Naval

Naval at Mag:Net

Poch Naval will open his latest exhibit "Seduction of Images" March 7, at Mag:net Gallery Paseo. The exhibit features abstract works suggesting "remote and direct references to the *conquista* and Magellan as a form *of engkanto*, or a seducer who uses images to influence events." It runs until March 28. Call 8177895.

Oliveria at Drawing Room

Jayson Oliveria's latest exhibit, "Disoriented by an Aesthetic Experience," is on view at The Drawing Room, G/F, Metrostar Bldg., Metropolitan Ave., Makati, until March 8. Call 8976990/7877.

Yuson at Domicillo

Reg Yuson presents snapshots taken during trips abroad, usually in black and white. His exhibit is until March 4, at Domicillo, Unit-6 Cliffhouse, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Maharlika East, Tagaytay. Call (046) 4132093.

Photo exhibit

"Twelve by Two," a photography exhibit featuring 12 gelatin silver prints, runs until Feb. 28 at Starbucks at 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati. Part of the proceeds of this exhibit will go to SparkHope, a project of Starbucks and Unicef. The exhibit is by photo-artists Julius Clar, a Multimedia Arts faculty member of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, and Jover Ubalde, a Benildean graduate. Call 5267441 to 47 local 123.

Digital photography

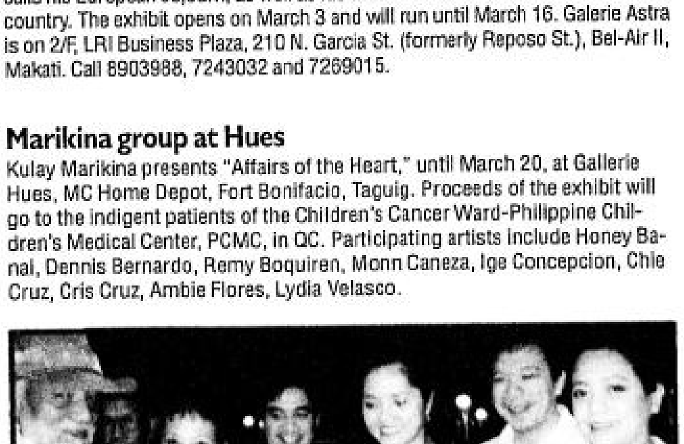
The Alcove Gallery will hold "Digital Photography 101: Photography and the Computer," by Jay Alonzo, on March 8-9, 13-15, 6-9 p.m., at Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Makati. Due to limited slots, interested participants must register on or before March 1. Call 8921801.

Roxas at Galerie Astra

Galerie Astra presents "Kassel," the newest series of abstract works by abstractionist Eghai Roxas. "Kassel" is composed of 10 large and 37 small paintings, mostly in black and white, with a combination of various textures and gestural strokes. Three installation pieces documenting the painter's aesthetic persona within the past year will be on view, composed of a plethora of objects which recalls his European sojourn, as well as his meditations on the current state of the country. The exhibit opens on March 3 and will run until March 16. Galerie Astra is on 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8903988, 7243032 and 7269015.

Marikina group at Hues

Kulay Marikina presents "Affairs of the Heart," until March 20, at Gallerie Hues, MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Proceeds of the exhibit will go to the indigent patients of the Children's Cancer Ward-Philippine Children's Medical Center, PCMC, in QC. Participating artists include Honey Banal, Dennis Bernardo, Remy Boquiren, Monn Caneza, Ige Concepcion, Chie Cruz, Cris Cruz, Ambie Flores, Lydia Velasco.



ARTIST Tam P. Austria (in hat) hosts "Artists' Convergence 2006," his annual public sketching session, at his Antipolo residence. The 'affair draws art patrons and students. Beneficiary is the Philippine Institute for the Deaf. Guests of honor include lawyer Amado Santiago, banker Montiel de los Santos, and Willie Pangilinan and their spouses.

New story collection by Landicho

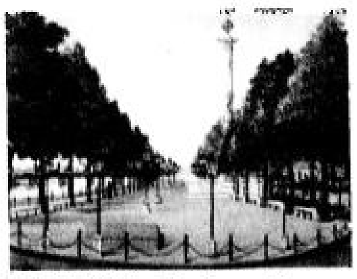
WRITER AND UP PROFESSOR Domingo G. Landicho will launch his new collection of stories, "Bathaluman," published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, tomorrow, 4 p.m., at Pulungang Recto, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, Quezon City. A poetry-reciting contest, the Landichohan 2006, will open the launch.

The UP Department of Filipino, Ateneo Press, and UP Office of the Initiative for Culture and the Arts sponsor the affair. UP president Emerlinda Roman leads the guests.

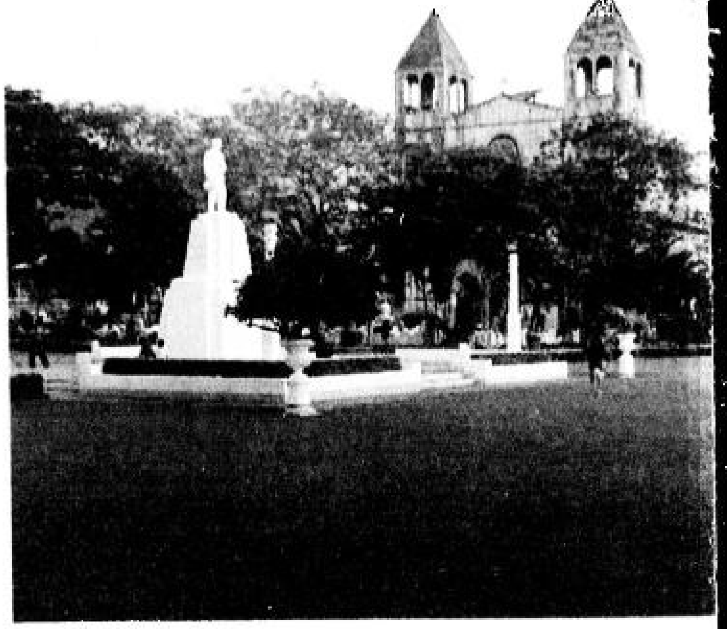
"Bathaluman" consists of 14 stories with a strong streak of fantasy. They span over four decades of the author's writing career and cover a range of subjects, from religion to art, dreams, prejudice and more.

Call 9290113 or 9244899.

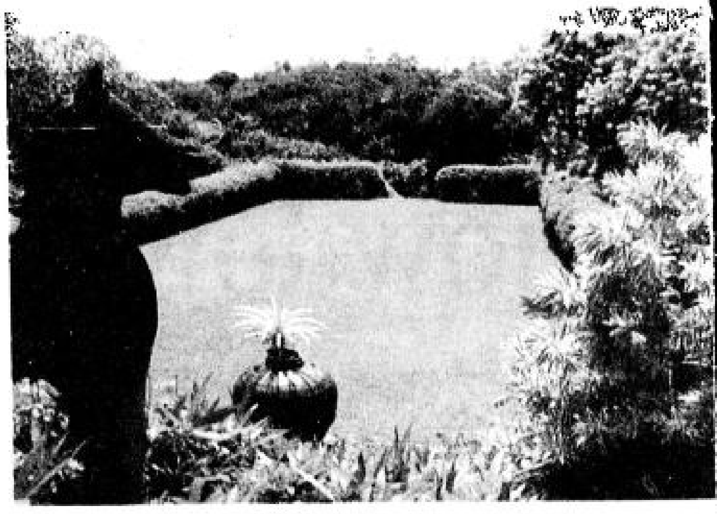
Landscape architects need cultu



DAPITAN Plaza landscaped in traditional Filipino with church as focal point and Rizal statue at center



PASEO Magallanes in 18th-century Manila combines Spanish landscaping elements with the tropical Philippine climate and flora.



BRIEF is another Sri Lankan estate that patterns its garden after formal French classical landscape design.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS are a small but sturdy bunch of people. Until very recently only the University of the Philippines offered a degree course in landscape architecture. Now the University of San Carlos in Cebu offers a similar course.

Around 180 Philippine practitioners are nationally licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission today. Of that number, only 20 percent actively practice the profession.

Dolly Quimbo Perez, who received her degree in the University of California at Berkeley, is among its pioneer practitioners, having been active in the field since the late 1950s.

One of the first gardens she designed was in the house that I grew up in. I watched each time she came to inspect the construction of our garden, discovering that running beneath the lawn, plants, terrace and paved stepping paths were a maze of drainage pipes, electrical wiring, structural foundations that supported a pavilion and the fence.

I found out that plants were not chosen for the simple reason that they looked good. There was logic that tied everything together.

What she did was certainly not "exterior decorating" as many perceived. On the contrary, a landscape architect is definitely a highly trained professional, not just any old gardener.

The splendor of the natural landscape in the Philippines is unparalleled. However, many landscapes are what they are today because of the manner humans interacted with the nature surrounding them.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, a Unesco World Heritage property, is among the world's best examples of the coexistence between man and Nature that has produced a site of stunning beauty that once was ecologically sustainable as well. The majestic manmade terraces are designed to follow mountain slopes.

The designed landscape (public and private gardens, plazas, parks, and public open spaces) is a still unknown component of Philippine cultural heritage, an unstudied area ripe for research and documentation that can finally shed light on our garden and landscape tradition.

History and tradition are totally relevant to 21st-century landscape design. Two magnificent gardens, Lunuganga by Geoffrey Bawa and Brief by his brother Bevis Bawa, take their inspiration from classical European landscaping, which is recreated in the tropical climate of Sri Lanka

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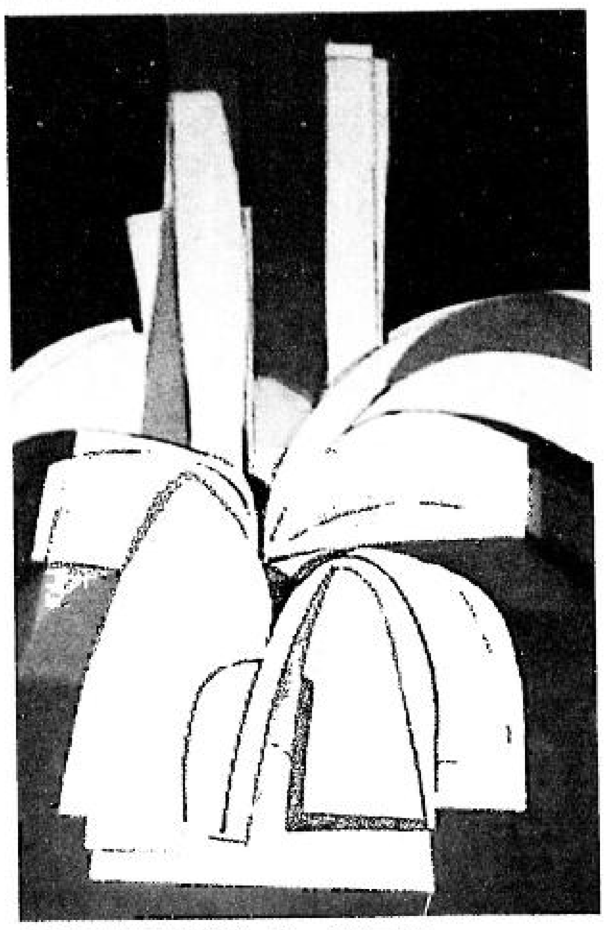


"CONFLAGRATION," by Rosario Bitanga

Book on Rosario Bitanga

PIONEER ARTIST-ABSTRACTionist Rosario "Charito" Bitanga will launch her coffee-table book "Living for Art," on March 7, 6 p.m., at Museum Space, Ayala Museum. The book is authored by award-winning art critic Cid Reyes. Book designer is Reiner Suva.

"Living for Art" is a biographical-chronological overview of Bitanga's life and work, tracing the trajectory of her major themes. The event coincides with an exhibition of the artist's recent paintings and sculptures.

Bitanga is a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate from University of Santo Tomas in 1958. She also holds the distinction of being the first Filipina to earn a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art BLoomfield Hills, Michigan (1960). She is the dean of the Institute of Fine Arts and Design, an affiliate of the Philippine Women's University. She is a consultant on sculpturing and member of the advisory committee of UST College of Fine Arts and Design.

The Museum Space is on 2/F, Glass Wing, Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. and F. De la Rosa St., Makati.

Folklore confab, festival in Bukidnon

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON teaching folk literature with focus on "myth, epic and other heroic narratives in the education curriculum" will be held at San Isidro College, Malaybalay City, on March 1-3. The keynote lecture will be delivered by former UP dean Dr. Vivencio R. José.

It will be followed by the famous Kaamulan Festival, or "social gathering," which showcases the traditions and customs of seven ethnic groups of Bukidnon, the province's history and culture, street dancing contest, horse and rodeo show, trade and agrifair, food festival, garden show and other indigenous practices.

The seminar fee of P800 will cover food, conference papers and other materials.

For inquiries: (Mindanao) carching_unabia@yahoo.com, (088)2214423; (Visayas) Dr. Zenaida French 0916-7030947; (Luzon) julietmallari@yahoo.com, (045)5992794; 0919-72229388; (Metro Manila) efrenabueg@yahoo.com, 8713049.

Jucar Raqu
encyclopedic al

By Constantino C. Tejero

CAR CULTURE AND FUTURISM were fated to be joined from the start. That short-lived art movement of the early 20th century, for one, always aspired to that "superior essence of progress marked by its major symbols: the car and its speed."

That's how the gallery note introduces Jucar Raquepo's exhibit "Abstract Thought Towards Emphatic Thought," 11 pieces in oil on canvas and an installation, until Feb. 28 in Mag:net Gallery Paseo, G/F, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave. cor Sedeno St., Makati City.

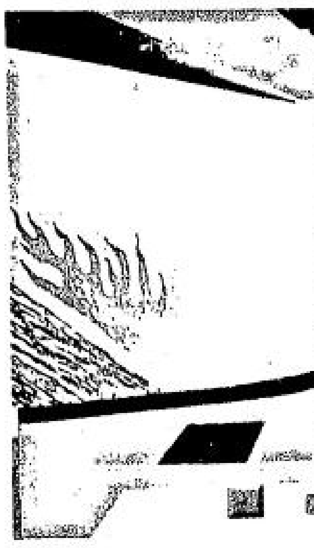
And rightly so. But then the note goes on: "Progress is commonly associated with innovation, the new, an optimistic view of the future, a metropolis run with precise efficiency. Hence, it is an absolute aim continually aspired for and which all seemingly totalitarian states deem to deliver for their citizens.

"Accordingly, it's what the Futurists have built hymns to—to herald the march of modernity, the mechanization of industries, a complete revolution for new pictorial imagery aggrandizing speed, sleekness, movement, the glimmer of invention, the thunder of motors, above all. It is to this that Raquepo's recent works allude as he returns to his familiar theme of hobby detailing."

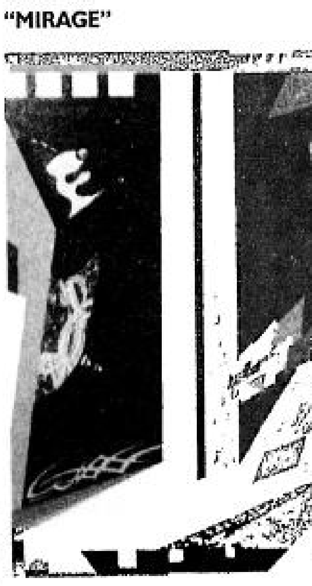
Such high-mindedness can turn off the common gallery-goer who just wants to glory in the rich visuals, in the vibrant colors and dynamic lines of these pieces.

The paintings are more complex versions of those in Raquepo's show last year. The installation, "Pimped My Art," consists of a piece in oil and decals on canvas attached with a DVD player and LCD monitor showing a digital animation by the artist, bumper guards, amplifier, speakers, neon backlight, spotlights, blinkers.

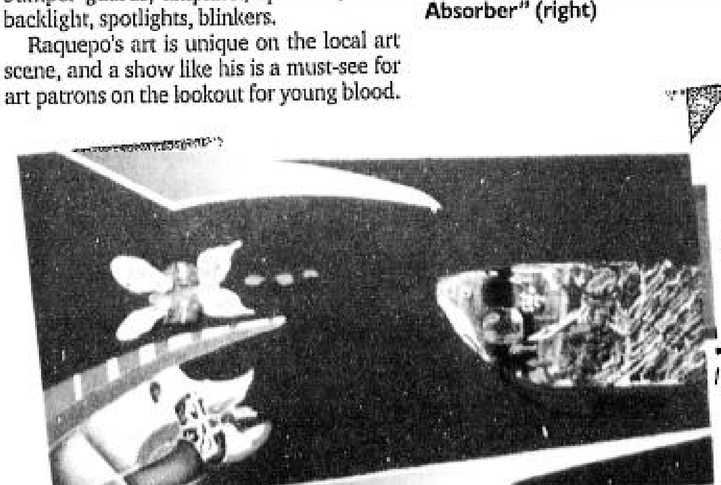
Raquepo's art is unique on the local art scene, and a show like his is a must-see for art patrons on the lookout for young blood.



"MIRAGE"



"MUSCLE" (above) and "Shock Absorber" (right)



"MI Helme

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ural grounding

using national cultural references and local plant material.

Roberto Burle Marx tamed Brazilian jungles to produce country gardens of far-ranging tropical vistas, which were also based on classical European models. He planned urban plazas and city gardens. His highly creative work pushed the Brazilian and international awareness of the landscape to higher levels.

New level of scholarship

Tracing the extent, development and nuances of traditional landscape design brings a new level of scholarship to the landscape architecture practitioners, grounds it culturally to Philippine traditions, and leads the young profession toward professional maturity.

Becoming aware of the history of landscape (researching and documenting the designed Philippine landscape) is a missing design source for today's landscape architects who mostly seem to look westward, away from our country, for inspiration.

Inspiration comes from many sources, not exclusively books and magazines. Inspiration comes from information and images experienced by a designer which are stored in his mind, ready to be used when the appropriate moment arrives.

To be inspired, it helps to be extra inquisitive. Go and experience all kinds of places. Look at anything and everything. Pick up images from anywhere and everywhere.

Being aware of Philippine culture is an excellent resource for inspiration. See how traditional landscapes express the close relationship of the people and the nature that surrounds them. Understand that the designed landscape, like architecture, provides a spatial envelope where human life takes place.

To contribute its share to the complex task of nation-building, the responsibility of the landscape architect is to improve our quality of life. Whether contributions to the improvement of everyday life through landscape design have been significant is for the individual practitioners and their professional association to determine.

When I was asked to speak at the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (Pala) conference in 2004, the inevitable question of whether there was a Philippine landscape design was asked.

I remember challenging the landscape architects in the audience to come up with an answer.

When I returned to speak at the 2006 Pala conference a week ago, there still was no answer to the question from the audience.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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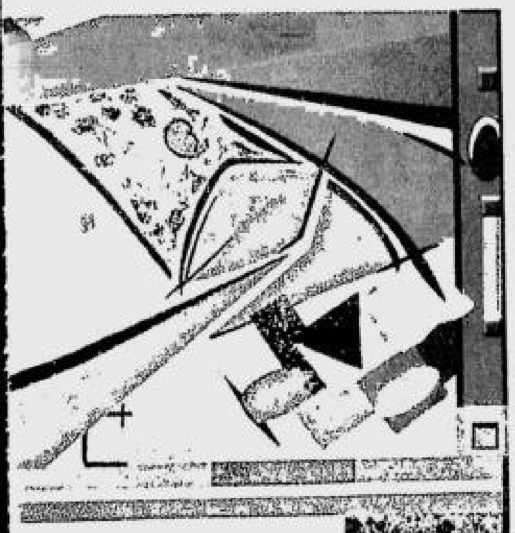

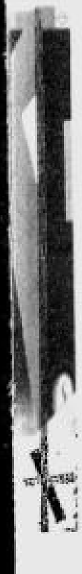

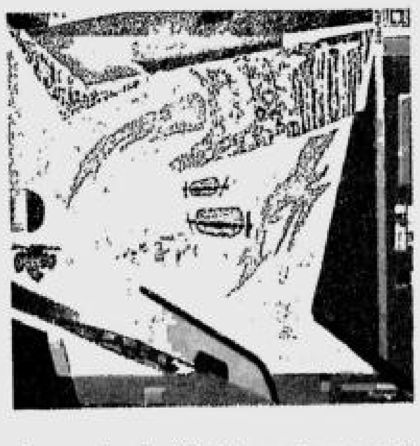

But over-hyping like that can dampen one's enthusiasm.

The exhibit's title itself sounds far-out. And then the note has to cite influences that would make pastiches of these pieces, a roll call which sounds encyclopedic, indeed.

Thus: "Motifs of hot-rod flames, racing stripes, checked flag patterns are juxtaposed with scaled-down Stellas, Mondrians, Albers, Ballas, Klees, Kandinskys, Newmans, Pollocks, and all other iconic abstract works known in art history. These are repeated, resized, reconfigured on each canvas like stickers or clip-art types."

The paintings themselves the note describes as "a surface where time and space have been flattened, and where corporate logos, TV-station IDs, Web interfaces, neon signs, MMDA color blocks are ever more ominous than the sun, stars and clouds."

And it even quotes Futurism's founder, the poet Marinetti: "We already live in the absolute, because we have created eternal, omnipresent speed."

This sounds pretty exciting, and quite inventive of the artist. It is attested by pieces such as "Muscle" and "Mirage."

Indeed, these artworks bear those characteristics cited by the gallery note, and we appreciate them as such. If only the PR writer doesn't sound out-of-this-world.

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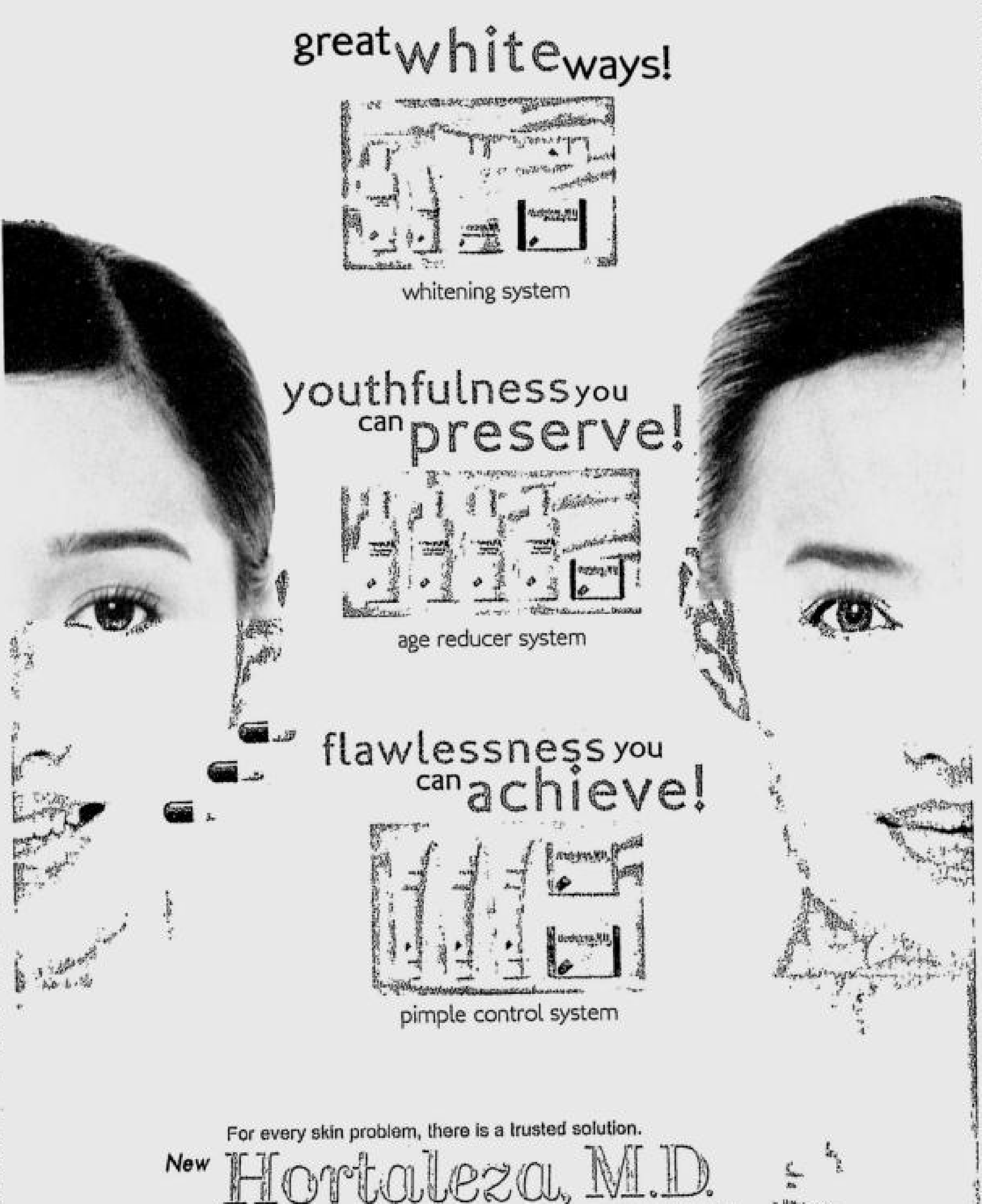

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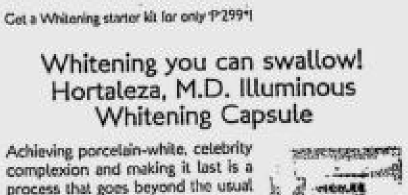

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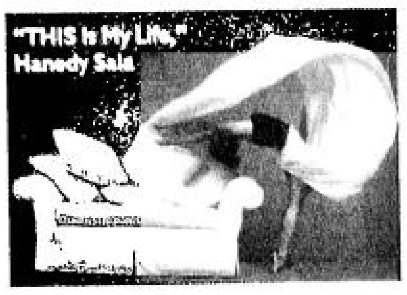


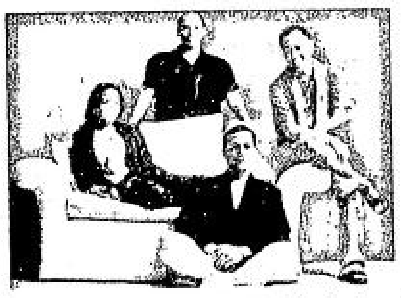
Ballet Philippines explores tango

BALLET PHILIPPINES STAGES its 36th season finale, "Tango Filipino/La Divina," a scorching blend of bodies in ballet and ballroom style, on March 17-19 (2 p.m. matinee/ 8 p.m. gala), at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The company fuses the sensual tango with the Spartan clarity of contemporary dance. There will also be an evening of original Argentinean tango music combined with the Pinoy "Dansa."

"Tango Filipino/La Divina" features the works of Tony Fabella, Augustus "Bam" Damian, resident choreographer Alden Lugnasin, and Edna Ledesma, 2005 Blackpool Dance Festival champion. Lucy Torres-Gomez will give a special performance.

Call 5511003, 5510221, or 8326011.


THE CHOREOGRAPHERS: (clockwise from top) Bam Damian, Tony Fabella, Alden Lugnasin and Edna Ledesma

5 recital plays from arts school

DULAANG SIPAT LAWIN, THE official theater company of the Philippine High School for the Arts, will be staging the grand theater recital of Batch Ang Kiukok-NVM Gonzales titled "Kung Pa'no Masiraan ng Bait."

The mini-playfest features the following plays: "Progress," an adaptation of National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose's short story, "The First Snow of November;" Alfonso Dacanay's Palanca-winning adaptation of the short story "The Day the Dancers Came;" and Rody Vera's "Ang Unang Aswang."

Also included is a double bill featuring "Lihis," a translation of Martin Sherman's "Bent," and "Makikitawag Lang Ako," an adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's short story, "I Only Came to Use the Phone."

THE DULAANG Sipat Lawin Theater Company of the Philippine High School for the Arts

These plays will be presented at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute on March 10-12, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., directed by Herbie Go and co-directed by the six senior recitalists.

Call 0927-3276610, 8323678 (Pie), 0921-3544432 (Lakhi) or (049) 5362862.

Tenor Malaki, pianist Coo in concert

THE MANILA SANITARIUM Foundation Inc. and the Manila Adventist Medical Center and School of Medical Arts Inc., will feature pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo and tenor Sal Malaki in a concert on March 5 at the CCP Main Theater.

Proceeds will go to assist poor patients and student scholars, and improve school and hospital facilities.

Malaki is a noted tenor-soloist of the Los Angeles Opera and LA Master-Chorale. His repertoire will feature inspirational, Broadway, opera, Filipino and international selections.

Coo is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music and University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music.

The Manila Adventist Medical Center, formerly the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, is a 150-bed tertiary hospital, part of a chain of more than 500 healthcare centers operated worldwide by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and affiliated with the Adventist Health System.

For tickets, call 5363677, 0917-8988459, 5259191 local 641 or 0917-8988459.

Dulce concert kicks off Mary Johnston school centennial

SINGER DULCE AND Personal Revival Asia (Prasia) will team up for the thanksgiving concert and launch of the centennial celebration of the Mary Johnston College of Nursing of the Philippine Christian University at the Philamlife Theater tonight at 6.

Dulce will perform gospel songs while the Prasia gospel vocal ensemble will render soul-inspiring Christian music.

According to MJCN Dean Edna Imperial, the concert will kick off the yearlong celebration of MJCN's 100th anniversary on February 2007. Theme of the celebration is "A Century of Nursing Through God's Faithfulness."

Proceeds of the event will support the registration fees of retired alumni of the MJCN for next year's grand homecoming, as well as the general fund for the celebration.

For tickets, call 2450806 or 2450824, or log on to www.mjcn.r8.org.

Rep mounts longest-running off-Broadway musical

"I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW Change!," one of the longest running off-Broadway musicals, is Repertory Philippines' latest offering at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1. Show runs until March 12 with 8 p.m. shows on Fridays and Saturdays and 3:30 p.m. shows on Sundays.

With book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts, the musical features four talented actors—Robbie Guevara, Nic Manahan, Cathy Azanza and Liesl Batucan—taking on various roles and singing to the musical beats of the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Michael Williams directs.

Tickets at P200, P300 and P500 are available at the Rep office (8870710) at C2-A Building C, Karrivin Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, and at Ticketworld outlets (8919999). Discounted tickets are available for group sales and special performances.

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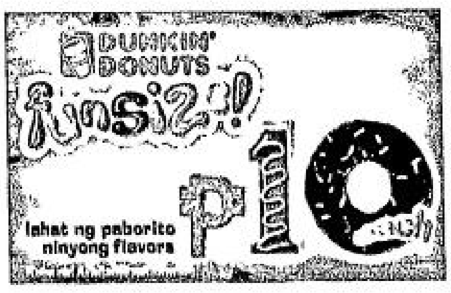
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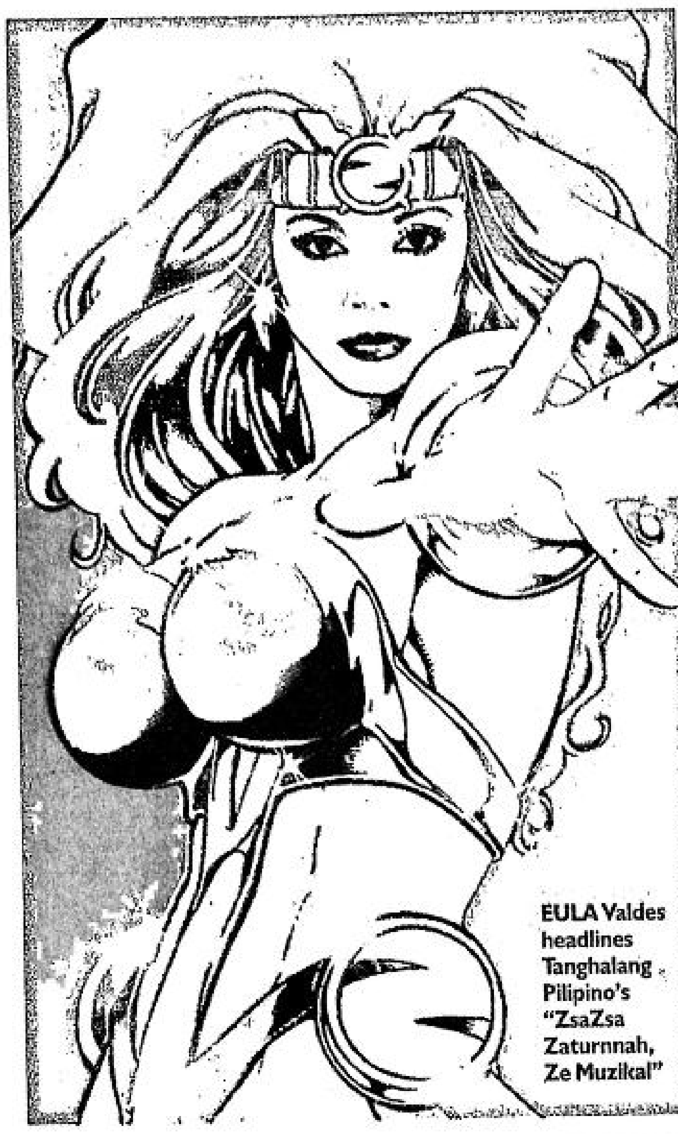
Heroes and superheroes

Mabesa's agitprop 'Gabriela' becomes strangely fascist beside the gay 'Zaturnnah'


EULA Valdes headlines Tanghalang Pilipino's "ZsaZsa Zaturnnah, Ze Muzikal"

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By Gibbs Cadiz

HOW you appreciated "Gabriela," Dulaang UP's just-ended production at Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, would've rested largely on how you viewed the street theatrics of the Left.

Does the sight of clenched fists, locked arms and flag-draped tableaux stir you? Or does it make your eyes glaze over?

If you're of the former, then "Gabriela," directed by Tony Mabesa, would have made you swoon. Billed as an oratorio, it felt and sounded more like a rally at Liwasang Bonifacio. There was endless flag-waving, fist-pumping, speechifying, "*makibaka*"-ing.

An activist lawyer got shot in Act 2, and on the next scene he became the Crucified Christ. The implication was clear: Leftists, for all their head-scratching antics at times (quite apart from the validity of their causes), were nothing less than martyrs.

Where was Gabriela Silang in all this? She was in Act 1, but barely. What little it said about the woman who led the Ilocanos in a short-lived revolt against Spanish rule in the 1800s gave hint that she was more complex than history books had allowed us to see.

But that rich, enigmatic life didn't attract Joi Barrios, who wrote "Gabriela's" book and lyrics. What she wanted was to demonstrate the woman's enduring relevance to the present by projecting her fierce heroism on the struggle for progressive politics.

Fair enough. Steep that correlation in earnestness and oversimplification, however, and it could only spawn agitprop. "Gabriela's" titular heroine ended up hijacked by the kind of romantic utopianism best exemplified by this startling line: "*Lahat ng taong nanandata ay taong*

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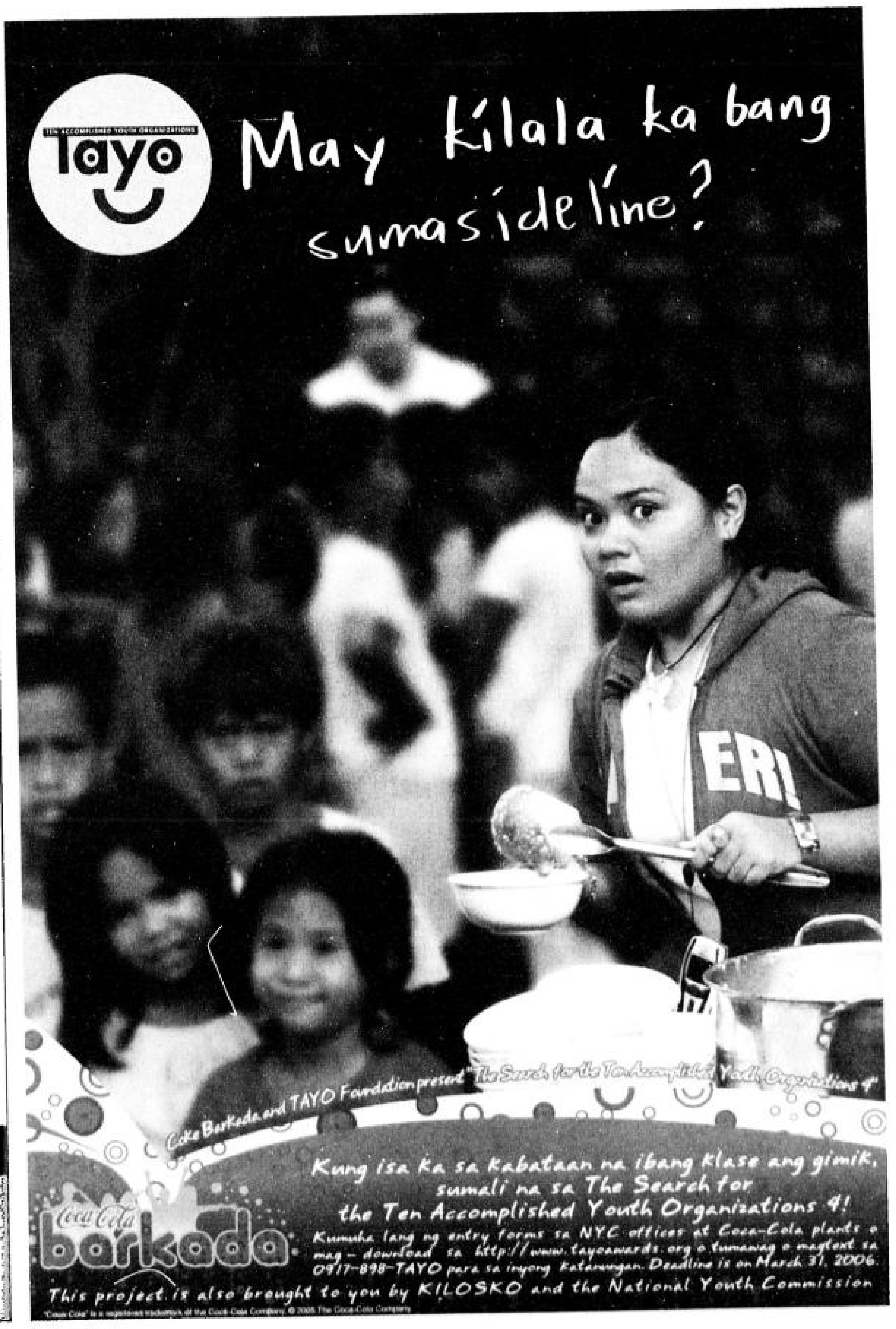
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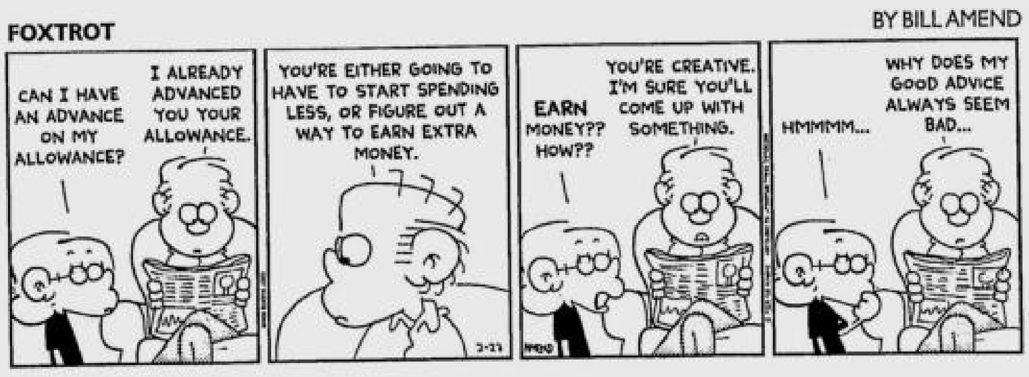
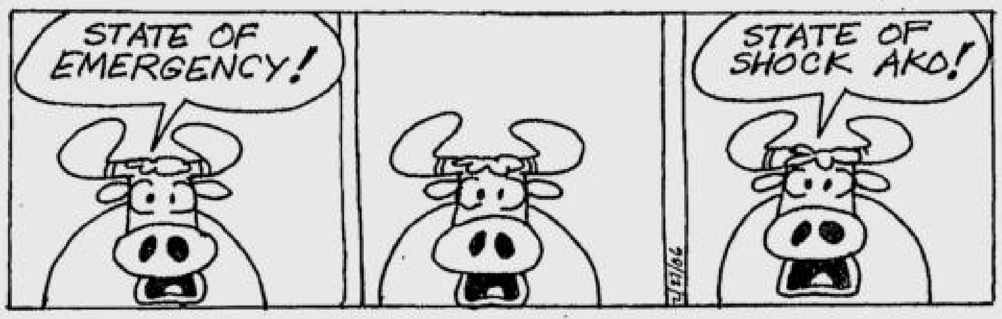
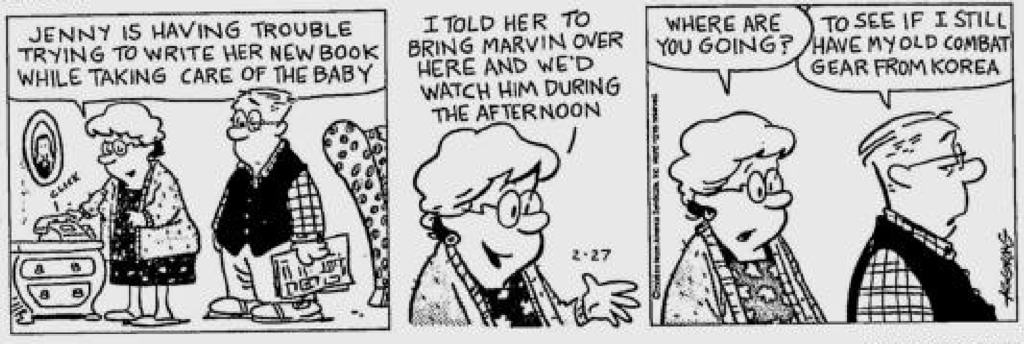

CAN I HAVE AN ADVANCE ON MY ALLOWANCE?
I ALREADY ADVANCED YOU YOUR ALLOWANCE.
YOU'RE EITHER GOING TO HAVE TO START SPENDING LESS, OR FIGURE OUT A WAY TO EARN EXTRA MONEY.
EARN MONEY?? HOW??
YOU'RE CREATIVE. I'M SURE YOU'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
HMMMM...
WHY DOES MY GOOD ADVICE ALWAYS SEEM BAD...
2-27

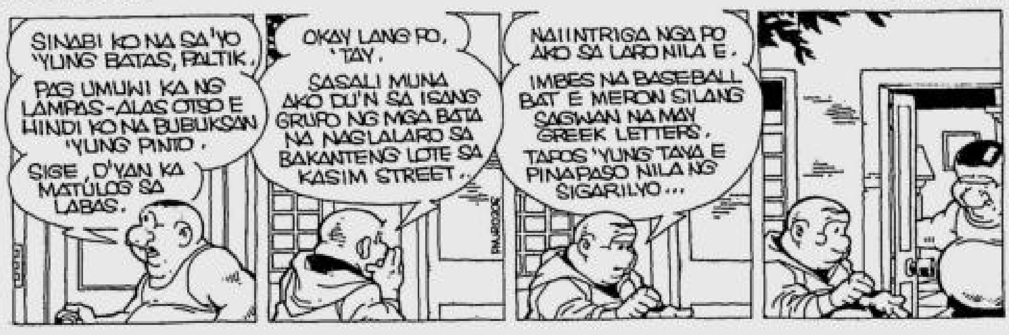
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


STATE OF EMERGENCY!
STATE OF SHOCK AKO!
2/27/06

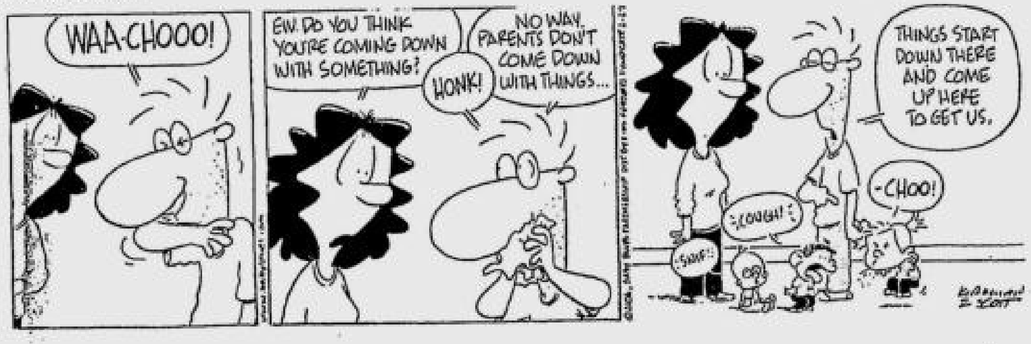
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


JENNY IS HAVING TROUBLE TRYING TO WRITE HER NEW BOOK WHILE TAKING CARE OF THE BABY
CLICK
I TOLD HER TO BRING MARVIN OVER HERE AND WE'D WATCH HIM DURING THE AFTERNOON
2-27
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO SEE IF I STILL HAVE MY OLD COMBAT GEAR FROM KOREA

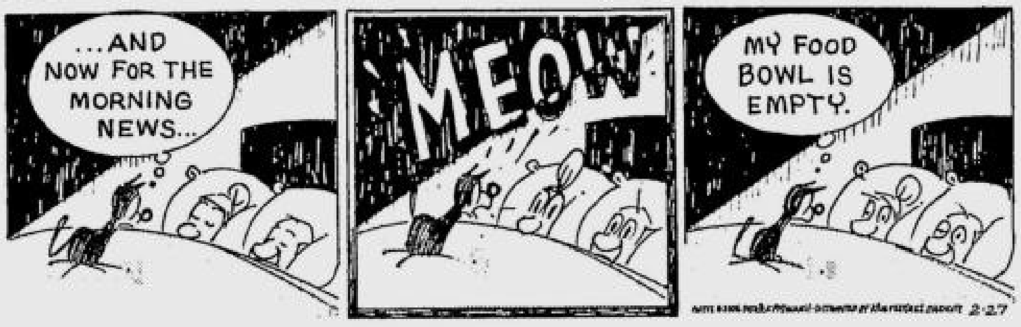
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SINABI KO NA SA'YO 'YUNG BATAS, PALTIK.
PAG UMUWI KA NG LAMPAS-ALAS OTSO E HINDI KO NA BUBUKSAN 'YUNG PINTO.
SIGE, D'YAN KA MATULOG SA LABAS.
OKAY LANG PO, 'TAY.
SASALI MUNA AKO DU'N SA ISANG GRUPO NG MGA BATA NA NAGLALARO SA BAKANTENG LOTE SA KASIM STREET.
NAIINTRIGA NGA PO AKO SA LARO NILA E.
IMBES NA BASEBALL BAT E MERON SILANG SAGWAN NA MAY GREEK LETTERS.
TAPOS 'YUNG TAYA E PINAPASO NILA NG SIGARILYO...

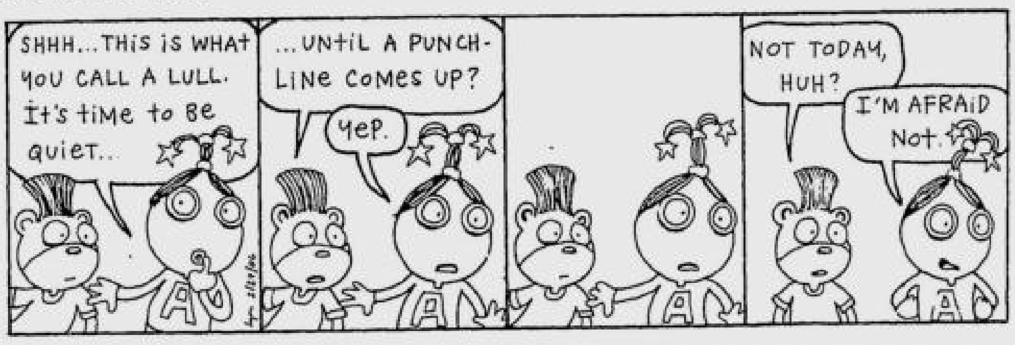
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAA-CHOOO!
EW. DO YOU THINK YOU'RE COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING?
HONK!
NO WAY. PARENTS DON'T COME DOWN WITH THINGS...
THINGS START DOWN THERE AND COME UP HERE TO GET US.
SNIFF!
COUGH!
-CHOO!

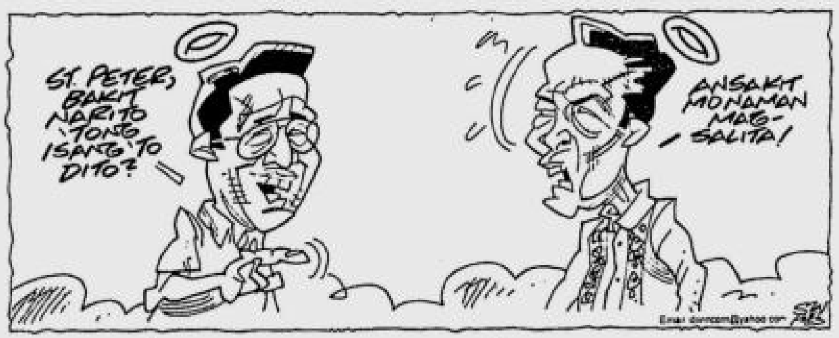
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


...AND NOW FOR THE MORNING NEWS...
MEOW
MY FOOD BOWL IS EMPTY.
2-27

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SHHH...THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL A LULL. IT'S TIME TO BE QUIET...
...UNTIL A PUNCHLINE COMES UP?
YEP.
NOT TODAY, HUH?
I'M AFRAID NOT.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ST. PETER, BAKIT NARITO 'TONG ISANG 'TO DITO?
ANSAKIT MONAMAN MAGSALITA!

NINOY AND MARCOS IN HEAVEN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are worldly. You're interested in many things. You're also highly capable. You invariably devote yourself to a worthy cause in life. Your private life is passionate and dramatic. (You're a feeler.) The year ahead is full of magical new beginnings for you. Pick a new road. Anything can happen. It's simply up to you.
Birthdate of: Elizabeth Taylor, actress; John Steinbeck, author; Marian Anderson, opera singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Once a month, we have a New Moon. This is always the best time to make resolutions or start things off on a fresh footing. This time, it's good to get in touch with your inner, spiritual world.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Are you happy with the friends you have? Today's New Moon is the perfect time to observe your friends and realize that they reflect who you are. What kind of friend are you to them?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Yours is a freedom-loving sign. How well do you handle authority? Examine your relations with bosses and parents. Is there something you want to improve?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): No matter what your political or religious views are, it's important to respect the religious and political views of others. Tolerance goes both ways.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's New Moon offers you a chance to observe how you react to other people's values when you don't agree with those values. This is a sign of true maturity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's New Moon is directly opposite your sign. What can you do to improve your closest relationships and partnerships? Would you want to have you as a partner?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Think of ways to improve how you do your job. The reason you want to do this is so that you can be happier and have greater job satisfaction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Although it's important to work hard, it's equally important to relax and play. Laughter will prolong your life. It also promotes the well-being of everyone around you.

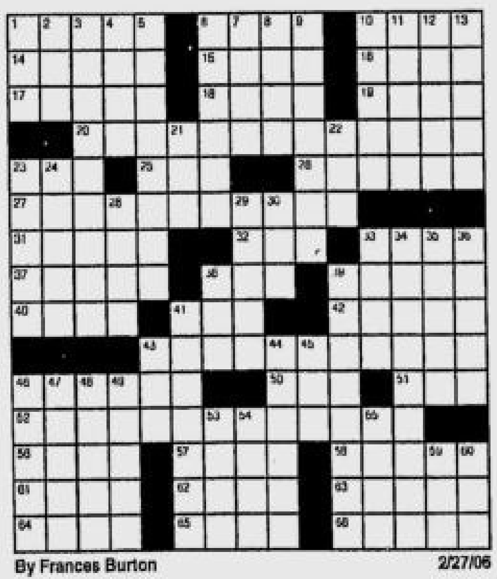
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is the best time of the entire year for you to think about how you can improve your home and your relations with your family members. That's because it's a special New Moon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): What can you do to make your day-to-day activities flow more smoothly? Perhaps getting up 30 minutes earlier is all you need to do. Think about it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Take some time to make friends with your bank account and get on top of your financial situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. What can you do to improve your appearance and the first impression you create on others?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA
2/27/06

ACROSS
1 Lhasa land
6 Opposing prefix
10 Wide-ranging
14 Ham it up
15 Archery equipment
16 Frankenstein's gofer
17 In trouble with
18 Song for Callas
19 Father
20 A long way
23 Temper
25 Corn site
26 Predictable westerns
27 Increasingly
31 Be of use
32 Lyricist Gershwin
33 Volvo rival
37 Art grouping
38 Explosive initials
39 G'day!
40 Upper hand
41 Word on a towel
42 Abominable snowmen
43 Running level
46 Chapeau container
50 Children's card game
51 Actor Alejandro
52 Frequently
56 Court order
57 Cog wheel
58 One-for-one deal
61 Superman's alias
62 Roman poet
63 Nibbler
64 Studio structures
65 Scottish loch
66 Smile derisively

DOWN
1 Afternoon social
2 Worldwide $ group
3 Bounce back
4 Ornamental case
5 "The __ Heart"
6 Put to shame
7 Writer/director Ephron
8 Mary Kate or Ashley
9 Dancer Duncan
10 Look in on
11 Nimble
12 Angner
13 Lock of hair
21 Long, long time
22 West of old movies
23 Picture
24 Wandered aimlessly
28 Emerald land
29 Capital of Belarus
30 Food scrap
33 Glimpsed
34 Change off
35 Wonderland visitor
36 Woodsy
38 Half a breath mint?
39 Combines with water
41 Six-sided figure
43 Payment or support lead-in
44 Performance prizes
45 Kvetch
46 Director Howard
47 Come to a consensus
48 Contaminate
49 Ship's posts
53 Actress Campbell
54 Speaker's platform
55 Present Persia
59 Singer Kiki
60 Blow it

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	P	H	I	E		C	L	E	R	I	C	A	L
U	N	E	A	S	Y		L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I
B	E	R	N	I	E		E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S
R	I	C	K	S		C	A	I	R	O		T	I	S
O	R	E			W	O	V	E	N		F	A	R	O
S	I	N	G	H	A	L	E	S	E		I	T	E	M
A	C	T	U	A	T	E	D			C	E	A	S	E
			A	C	T	S		I	D	O	L			
S	T	A	R	K			I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E
C	U	R	D		C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	O	N
R	A	M	S		O	C	T	E	T			M	O	M
I	T	O		T	U	T	O	R		D	E	L	T	A
P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N		B	E	T	E	L	S
T	R	E	E	L	I	N	E		M	A	N	S	E	S
S	A	D	D	E	N	E	D		W	R	A	S	S	E

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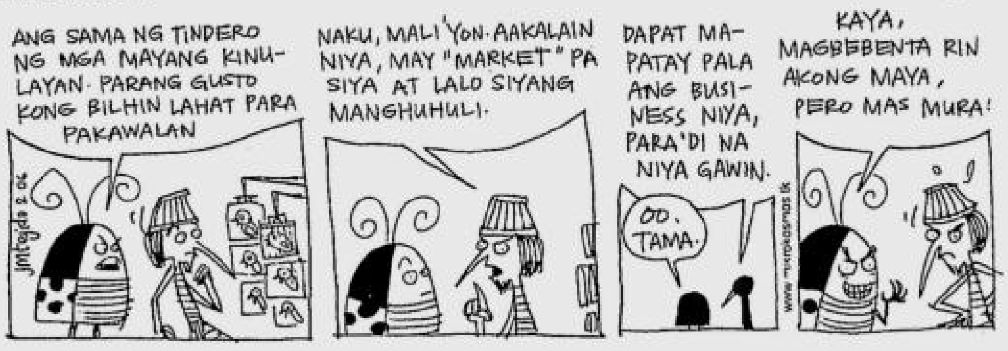
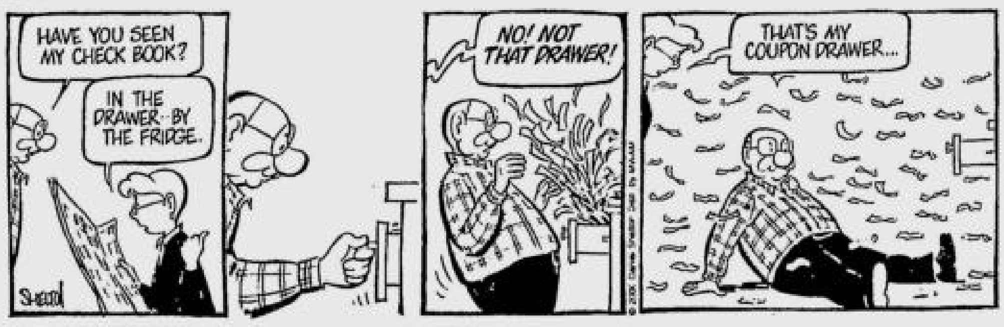
2/27/06

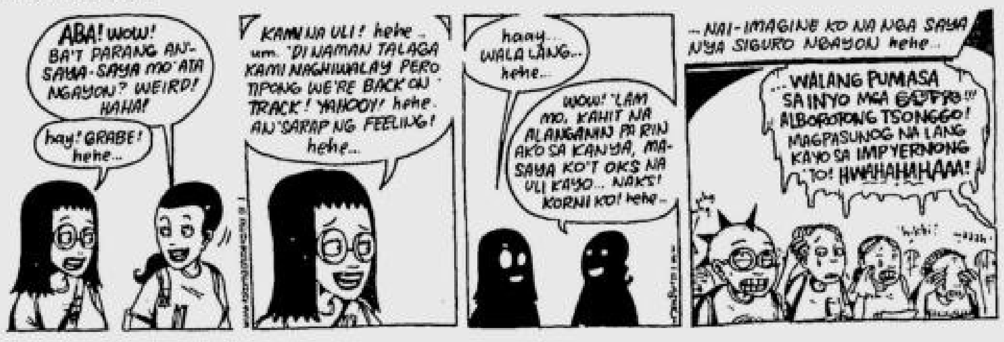
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SAMA NG TINDERO NG MGA MAYANG KINULAYAN. PARANG GUSTO KONG BILHIN LAHAT PARA PAKAWALAN
NAKU, MALI 'YON. AAKALAIN NIYA, MAY "MARKET" PA SIYA AT LALO SIYANG MANGHUHULI.
DAPAT MAPATAY PALA ANG BUSINESS NIYA, PARA'DI NA NIYA GAWIN.
OO. TAMA.
KAYA, MAGBEBENTA RIN AKONG MAYA, PERO MAS MURA!

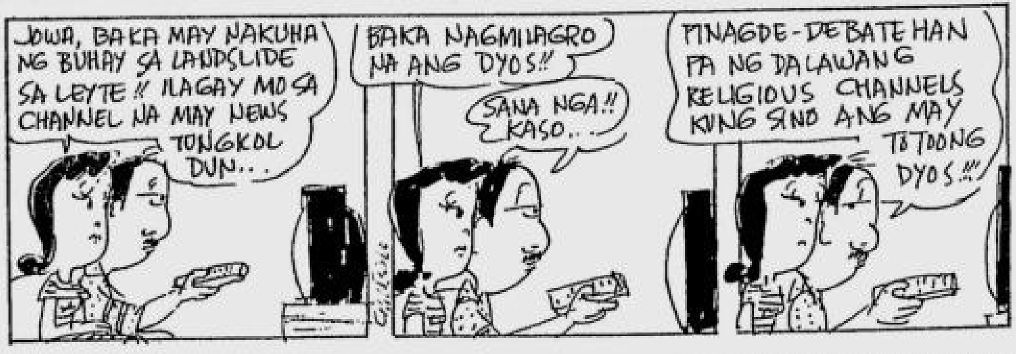
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HAVE YOU SEEN MY CHECK BOOK?
IN THE DRAWER BY THE FRIDGE.
NO! NOT THAT DRAWER!
THAT'S MY COUPON DRAWER...

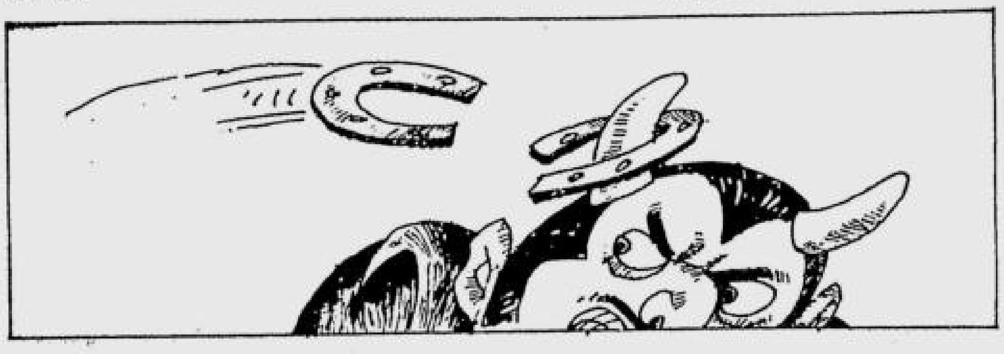
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ABA! WOW! BA'T PARANG ANSAYA-SAYA MO'ATA NGAYON? WEIRD! HAHA!
hay! GRABE! hehe...
KAMI NA ULI! hehe... um.. 'DI NAMAN TALAGA KAMI NAGHIWALAY PERO TIPONG WE'RE BACK ON TRACK! YAHOO!! hehe. AN'SARAP NG FEELING! hehe...
haay... WALA LANG... hehe...
WOW! 'LAM MO, KAHIT NA ALANGANIN PA RIN AKO SA KANYA, MASAYA KO'T OKS NA ULI KAYO... NAKS! KORNI KO! hehe...
...NAI-IMAGINE KO NA NGA SAYA NYA SIGURO NGAYON hehe...
...WALANG PUMASA SA INYO MGA GAGO!!! ALBOROTONG TSONGGO! MAGPASUNOG NA LANG KAYO SA IMPYERNONG 'TO! HWAHAHAHAAA!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BAKA MAY NAKUHA NG BUHAY SA LANDSLIDE SA LEYTE!! ILAGAY MO SA CHANNEL NA MAY NEWS TUNGKOL DUN...
BAKA NAGMIMILAGRO NA ANG DYOS!!
SANA NGA!! KASO...
PINAGDE-DEBATE HAN PA NG DALAWANG RELIGIOUS CHANNELS KUNG SINO ANG MAY TOTOONG DYOS!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOW HAS A BOOK CHANGED MY LIFE?

Manuals are for gadgets, books are for people

By Paul Gomez Hildawa

"Prayers and Devotions from Pope John Paul II," edited by Bishop Peter Canisius/Johannes Van Lierde

I WAS 7 YEARS OLD. NEWSpaper in hand, I read aloud two paragraphs of news and my Mama rewarded me P2. I realize now that I got more than P2!

The lessons of "Prayers and Devotions from Pope John Paul II" are among them.

I figured if I wanted instructions about life and living, there would be no better person to get it from but from the apostle of Christ—the Pope himself!

The book has infused spirituality into my life, which was otherwise headed for a boring and dead-end street of rush and chaos.

Gadgets need manuals. This book has become a manual for my life, my soul. I need thought- and spirit-provoking books to live life fully.

Has it changed me for the better? Tough question. Let me put it this way. It has provided me with virtual light posts on the highway of my life.

Paul Gomez Hildawa, 35, is a lawyer.

Get a chance to win P3,000 PowerBooks gift certificates and be featured in the Inquirer's pages by writing about the power of reading. For contest mechanics, log on to www.powerbooks.com.ph. The contest is held in connection with the Philippine Daily Inquirer's 20th anniversary.

PAUL Gomez Hildawa

Heroes and superheroes

From page D1

nagmahal." Ah, that explained the Christ metaphor.

There were attempts at ironic distance (at one point, the DUP Choric Ensemble deadpanned: "*Yan ang problema sa* political play, *masyadong* grim and determined, *walang nakangiti*"). But those feeble pokes, token as they were, couldn't hold a candle to the rampant ideological idolatry.

Joy Marfil's music simply asphyxiated at this rabble-rousing. The play's strident recitatives often overwhelmed its musical sequences, despite Lanie Sumalinog's superb vocal work. So "Gabriela, An Oratorio" felt neither particularly about Gabriela Silang nor an oratorio. A harangue, perhaps?

Wistful 'Wannabes'

Ironically, while Dulaang UP nearly popped a vein with "Gabriela," Peta, the country's foremost ideologically-minded theater troupe, was settling into a wistful, introspective groove with its latest offering, "Pinoy Wannabes."

Here, five one-act plays explored stories of separation and disconnection—how enforced distances, often linked to economic wants, could gnaw away at the rhythms and alliances of families and relationships.

OFWs made up the narrative skein: doctors working abroad as caregivers (in "Ang Kamera ni Mang Leon" by Gamay Arkoncel-Dacanay, directed by Soxie Topacio); '70s activists ending up as menial workers in America ("Yung Plano" by Tim Dacanay and Mae Quesada-Medina); an abused wife starting afresh in a new country ("Kalat" by Tina Manipis-de Guzman and Melvin Lee); two pairs of lovers befuddled by geography and mismatched plans ("Panaginip" by Vida Krisantha Nael and Phil Noble); and the Pinoy Everyman pining for a US visa ("Pasaporte" by Janneke Agustin and Nor Domingo).

Despite their topicality, these stories unfolded without much preachiness or sloganeering. They were unified only by dramatic theme and, visually, by a piece of red luggage that appeared in all the plays, an emblem of both the promise and danger of induced departures.

The best of this quintet of stories was "Yung Plano." It told the story of an OFW family's disintegration backward, from the first scene of three kids floundering in a parentless house, to the parents' first meeting as young Mendiola activists, both flush with promise and conviction—a scene of special poignancy in light of the compromises of later years.

"Kalat" was the weakest in narrative and impact, as it covered spousal abuse in clichéd terms. "Panaginip's" staging was intricate, reflecting the tangled relations at its core.

"Ang Kamera ni Mang Leon" mined laughs from a family's changing dynamics, while "Pasaporte" mainly showcased the chameleonic musical and vocal gifts of actor Ceejay Javier.

On a crowded stage, Javier made his mark along with veterans like Soliman Cruz, Gail Billones and Richard Cunanan, and pleasing newcomers like Jason Barcial.

("Pinoy Wannabes" runs until March 4 at the Peta Theater Center. Call 7256244/7218604.)

Sweet 'Zaturnnah'

Note to Darna and Super G: Your days as reigning superheroines in the hearts of Pinoy gay men may be at an end. Your most famous alter egos have hung up their costumes and become, well, mortal. One's a city mayor, the other is contemplating life as a jailbird.

Worse, an upstart has just come along to swipe your crowns. Meet ZsaZsa Zaturnnah, the "5'9"-tall, 6'5" with the hair" comic-book superheroine created by Carlo Vergara, and the subject of Tanghalang Pilipino's latest musical, which has been running to packed houses at CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

Taking aim at the Darna myth, "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" turned it upside down by giving the magic stone to a lonely *parlorista* named Ada. Her transformation into a red-haired superhuman bombshell made for a sweet, wacky, exuberant production directed by Chris Millado.

Invaluably aided by Vince de Jesus' soul-infused music and lyrics and Sonny Aniceto's kitschy set design, "ZsaZsa" built on the high-camp spirit of Vergara's comic book to offer a funhouse mirror that celebrated the silly, over-the-top character of everyday gay-inflected pop culture.

When Ada first became Zaturnnah, she burst into "Babae Na Ako," a foot-stompin' ditty that came with a bevy of babes in white bathrobes wielding mirrors. The tune was a subtle nod to Tuesday Vargas' novelty song, "Babae Po Ako," but scored in the big, bouncy idiom of musical theater. The scene, meanwhile, recalled a similar show-stopping set piece in Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical "Aida."

And who's to deny the low-rent glamour factor of ZsaZsa's impossibly named nemesis, Queen Femina Suarestellar Baroux, her *amazonistas* from Planet X—Nora A., Vilma S., Sharon C. and Dina B.—and their most potent weapon, the Pagoda Cold Wave Motion Gun?

The cast, led by Eula Valdes (ZsaZsa), Tuxs Rutaquio (Ada), Agot Isidro and Kalila Aguilos (alternating as Queen Femina), Arnold Reyes and Lauren Novero (Dodong, Ada's love interest) and Ricci Chan (practically a gale force as Didi, Ada's scenery-chomping sidekick), reveled in this camp-o-rama.

Thankfully, their performances were knowing but not glib, sardonic but not cynical. "ZsaZsa" benefited from that sincere stance.

It's a no-brainer that, by the end of this Day-Glo fantasy, Ada/ZsaZsa would get his man. What assured a giddy afterglow was hearing these lines sung to him:

Ikaw ang superhero ng buhay kong ito
Ikaw ang Kristala at Darna ko
Ang Sugo at Mulawin ko
Lastikman at Gagamboy
Si Volta at Captain Barbell ko
Ang Super G ng buhay ko
Ikaw ang superhero ng buhay ko!

On the wings of such savvy pop-coated tinsel, "ZsaZsa Zaturnnah, Ze Muzikal" zoared.

("ZsaZsa Zaturnnah" runs until March 5. Call 8323661 or 8321125 loc. 1620.)

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

SCENE from Dulaang UP's "Gabriela, An Oratorio"

THE CAST of "Ang Kamera ni Mang Leon," part of "Pinoy Wannabes," Peta's quintet of one-act plays

Villadolid lectures on media ethics

SENIOR JOURNALIST ALICE Colet Villadolid will deliver a lecture on "The Journalist's Code of Ethics and Its Relevance to Filipino Society" on March 4, 10 a.m., in the UST Graduate School auditorium.

Villadolid was executive director of the Philippine Press Institute when the Filipino Journalist's Code of Ethics was drafted and adopted in 1988.

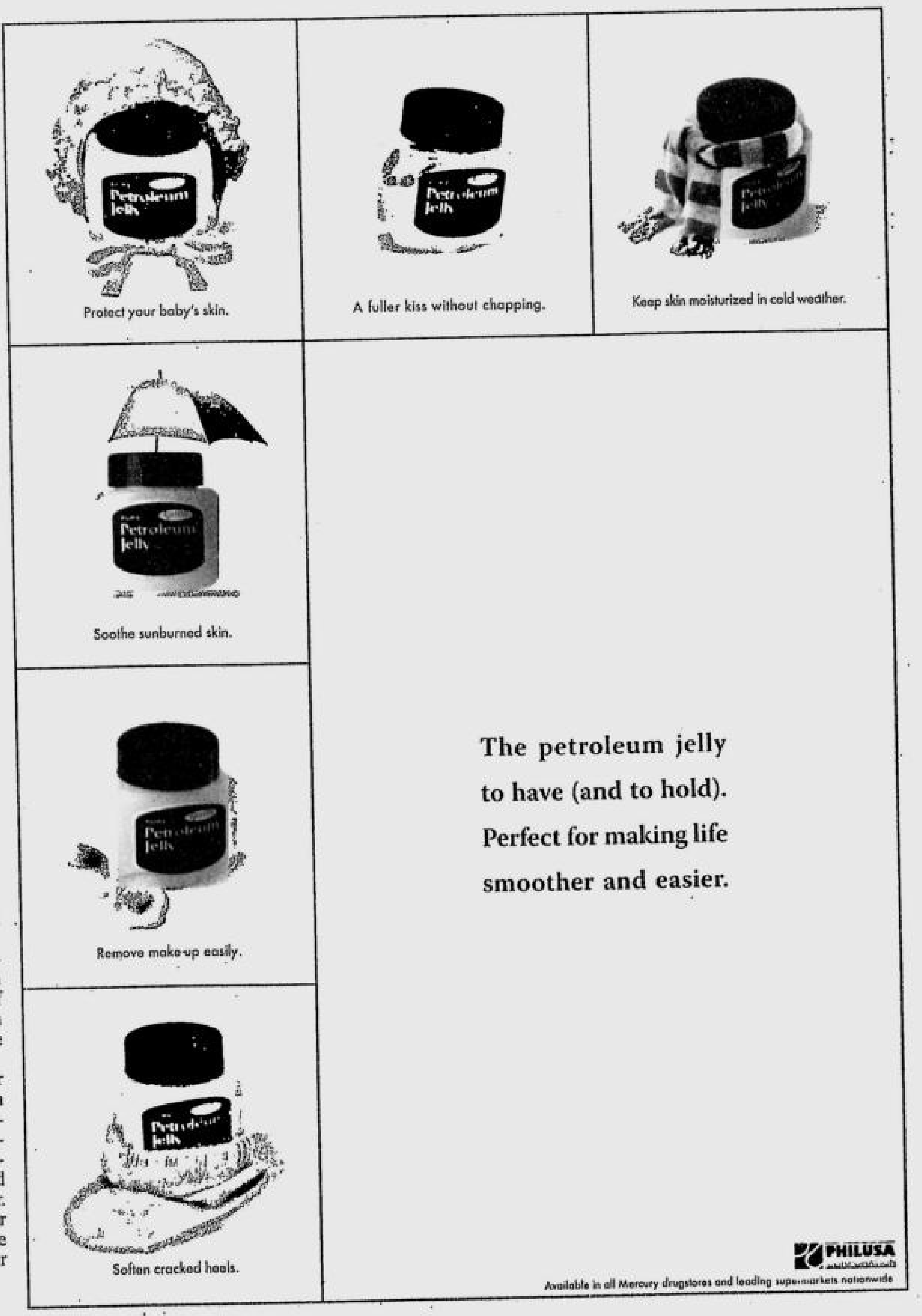
The lecture-forum on media ethics completes the requirements for the grant of a Master of Arts in Communication Arts to Villadolid through equivalency and accreditation of her 54-year practice of journalism as a reporter for the New York Times, Newsweek Intl., Manila Chronicle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and now Mr.& Ms. Magazine.

The accreditation was recommended by Dean Belen Tangco of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters to Dean Lilian Sison of the UST Graduate School.

Villadolid earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, and completed 40 postgraduate units in UST. She attended the International Institute of Journalism in Berlin and was certified as a media trainer. A press undersecretary under President Corazon Aquino, she has received the Outstanding Catholic Author Award.

The lecture-forum is open to the public.

ALICE Colet Villadolid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FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Syriana' mines explosive oil issue

By Eldric Paul Peredo
Contributor

SINCE ITS DISCOVERY IN 1859, OIL has been the driving force of economies worldwide, and not only of the Middle East as your average guy on the street would think.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the world was powered by coal and steam. But barely decades later, oil took over and now provides 40 percent of the world's energy, 96 percent of which is in the transportation sector.

Enter the United States of America, discoverer of the black gold, and today's biggest oil consumer as well, according to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS).

Around 50 percent of oil used in the US is sourced domestically, and the rest is accounted for by imports. Of these imports, only 10 percent is oil from the Persian Gulf.

Now for the punch: Oil production from reserves in non-Middle East countries have all either peaked or been steadily approaching their peak.

Powers and growing economies are turning toward the Middle East, which holds roughly 70 percent of the world's proven oil reserves. The major players: Japan, which sources 80 percent of its oil needs from the Gulf; Europe (30 percent); and growing behemoths China and India.

Thus, he who wields power over oil production in and distribution from the Persian Gulf holds one hell of a lightning bolt.

Black treasure, dark story

Such is the backdrop of the political thriller, "Syriana," starring George Clooney, Oscar winners Chris Cooper, William Hurt, Matt Damon, and a slew of other acclaimed actors, and written and directed by Stephen Gaghan, who also won the screenplay Oscar for "Traffic" (2000), another political thriller, but about the US' seemingly hopeless battle against the Mexican drug cartel.

"Syriana" is loosely based on "See No Evil," the memoirs of former CIA operative assigned to the organization's Directorate of Operations in the Middle East, Robert Baer. The book tells of how Baer saw the rise of terrorism and the failure of the CIA and ultimately the US to root out terror cells in the Middle East. This inadequate response would eventually lead to 9/11.

In the movie, Clooney is CIA man Bob Barnes, devoted to his job and the supposed goal behind it, but estranged from his wife, and struggling to keep the faith of his son, a high-school senior. Clooney is on assignment to assassinate some arms dealers, but a Stinger missile is surprisingly taken by a customer he did not expect to be in the equation.

"Syriana," however, only takes off from Barnes' episode. It is several stories woven together to become a collection of vignettes, with the battle for Middle East oil as the connecting thread.

Cooper is Texan oil tycoon Jimmy Pope, owner of oil company Killen, which has just been granted drilling rights in Kazakhstan. But competitor Connex Oil is not as lucky; Prince Nasir (played by London-bred actor Alexander Siddig), son of the emir and heir to the throne of an oil-rich country, just granted the rights to a higher Chinese bid.

Hungry for oil, Connex eyes Killen and proposes to absorb the smaller company in a merger proposal. This merger attracts the attention of the US government, whose laws prohibit gigantic monopolies.

Up-and-coming lawyer Bennet Holiday (Jeffrey Wright of HBO's "Angels in America" fame) is sent to investigate the merger, but with the implicit order to make sure it takes place.

Meanwhile, Matt Damon is oil-energy analyst Bryan Woodman, who enters the picture via a tragedy that kills his young son while they attend a party at the royal family's Spanish retreat. The boy's death pushes the envelope for Woodman, who agrees to work for Prince Nasir in exchange for ample compensation, which also amply considers the death of Woodman's son.

Woodman lets it all out, and reveals to the audience a radical face to his otherwise mild-thinking analyst. He confronts the prince head on and lectures him on the emirate's poverty-causing policy of selling oil cheap and buying processed fuel and arms at sky-high prices, which policy, however, keeps the rulers ridiculously affluent for their submission to US interests.

But Prince Nasir, British-educated, turns out to be a progressive thinker, and, in fact, plans to turn tables around come his time on the throne. He did favor the Chinese.

MATT Damon, George Clooney, Alexander Siddig and Prince Nasir's bodyguard in Warner Bros.' political thriller "Syriana," which also stars Jeffrey Wright

Loosely based on the memoirs of an ex-CIA man, the movie presents a dark story on the black gold

Labor factor

At the other end of this thread are the laborers laid off by the new Chinese bosses at the oil fields, like Pakistani migrants Saleem Ahmed Kahn (Shahid Ahmed) and his son, Wasim (Mazhar Munir). Their future becomes increasingly uncertain as they search in vain for work before their visas run out.

Wasim quickly becomes angry and disillusioned at this turn of events in his life. He and his friend, Farooq (Sonnell Dadral), find comfort among brother Muslims at the local madrasah, where they are taken under the wing of a charismatic brother—the one that bought the Stinger missile.

Meanwhile, Barnes is recalled to Washington, where he is given a new assignment: Kill Nasir, but for reasons Barnes is not made to fully understand.

And while all this is going on, Dean Whiting (played by venerated actor Christopher Plummer), Bennet's boss, the head of Sloan Whiting and one of the most powerful men in Washington, is trying to undo Nasir's deal with the Chinese. He knows that Nasir's younger, more callow brother, Prince Meshal (Akbar Kurtha), will be more amenable to American business interests, and he pressures the aging emir to choose his younger son to succeed him, effectively engineering Nasir's political demise.

At the end, all the characters inevitably cross paths, if not pursue paths, leading to a direct hit with each other to make for an explosive ending, but one which maintains enough questions for the viewer to resolve for himself.

Unexplored

For Gaghan, the question was obvious: What is really in the Gulf that is so precious or will become precious, when all the other oil energy sources run out? It's one area that has not been explored as yet by a big-screen production.

At present, the US imports only 10 percent of its oil needs from the Gulf, but there is no telling when it will also have to largely depend on Middle East oil, considering the Bush administration (or recent past administrations, for that matter) hasn't really changed the fact that the US is very much dependent on oil for energy or fuel. How far will it go to secure its needs?

For sure, "Syriana" will not appeal to audiences who wish to just sit back, watch and not think. The topic is very serious and brooding, difficult to understand at parts.

But it's one of those movies that make you realize the things we see and use and experience in our day-to-day lives are not as simple as they seem. We are only seeing the end-products. We are only the end-users.

And if one is willing to devote some time to learn, the movie can show a lot. It can show that desperation can be corruptive, even deadly.

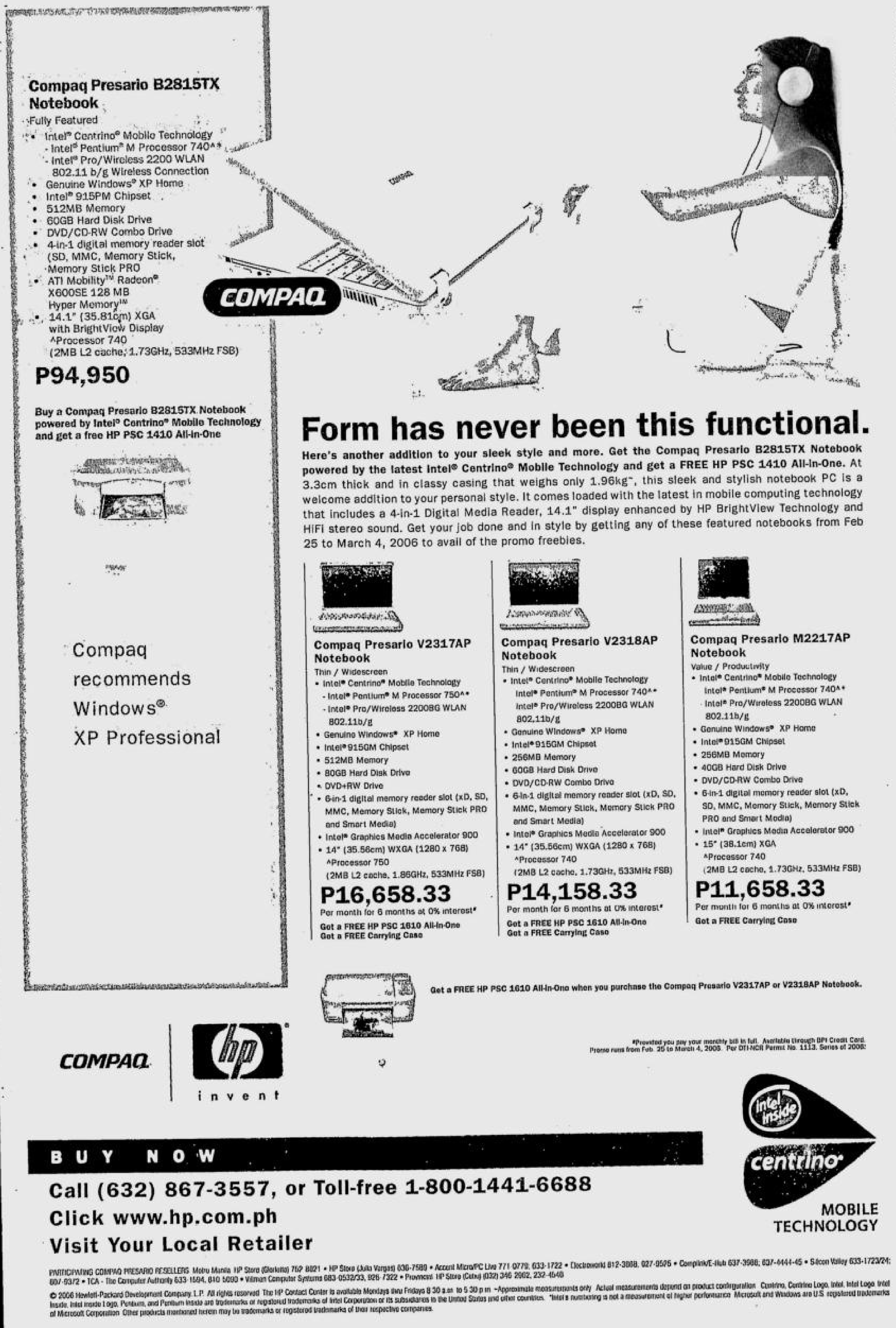
Oscar front-runner 'Capote' is story behind 'In Cold Blood'

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS' CRITICALLY ACclaimed drama "Capote," nominated for five Oscars including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress, will be shown exclusively at Ayala Cinemas (Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3) starting March 1.

Helmed by first-time director Bennett Miller and written by actor-turned-screenwriter Dan Futterman ("The Birdcage," TV's "Will & Grace"), "Capote" stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as the eccentric writer Truman Capote, and Catherine Keener as his friend, "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee.

The movie depicts the research and creative process that went into the writing of "In Cold Blood," about the murder of a Kansas family by a duo of ex-convicts in 1959. The famous book, which Capote called a "nonfiction novel," revolutionized American journalism.

PHILIP Seymour Hoffman as Truman Capote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